

CAZON
XC 20
- L 20

Ontario. Legislative Assembly.
Standing Committee on the
Legislative Assembly.

Debates
2nd Sess., 33th Parl.
No. 1-4
1986-87



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2022 with funding from
University of Toronto

<https://archive.org/details/31761114673601>



CA 20 N
XC 20
- L 20

No. M-1

Hansard

LIBRARY USE ONLY

Official Report of Debates

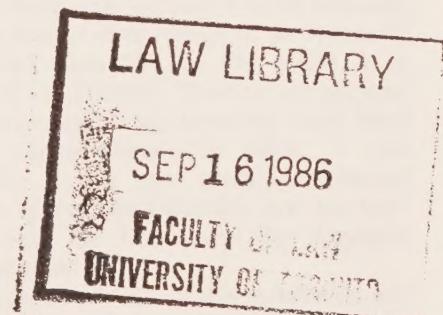
Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Standing Committee on the Legislative Assembly

Estimates, Office of the Assembly

Second Session, 33rd Parliament
Wednesday, June 18, 1986

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC



Published by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan

CONTENTS

Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of the speakers taking part.

Reference to a cumulative index of previous issues can be obtained by calling the Hansard Reporting Service indexing staff at (416) 965-2159.

Hansard subscription price is \$16.00 per session, from: Sessional Subscription Service, Information Services Branch, Ministry of Government Services, 5th Floor, 880 Bay Street, Toronto, M7A 1N8. Phone (416) 965-2238.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, June 18, 1986

The committee met at 3:59 p.m. in room 228.

ESTIMATES, OFFICE OF THE ASSEMBLY

Mr. Chairman: We have a quorum and we can get started. Before we do, I have a couple of announcements for you.

Members will be pleased to know that the report the committee did last week on the restaurant et al. was adopted yesterday by the Board of Internal Economy. At a subsequent date, we will have to have a discussion about duplication of effort, as yesterday we went through at the board the same process we went through a week earlier in this committee.

As I sat there through the wonderfulness of it all, it struck me that this did not make a whole lot of sense and at some point we should sit down and determine what the assembly expects this committee to do and what it expects the board to do, and then we will each do our respective jobs.

It also did one other nice thing yesterday afternoon; that is, it accepted the report on the budget for this committee, one of the ramifications of which is that we will now have to proceed to make arrangements. For those of you who will be attending the National Conference of State Legislatures, you will get some information on that shortly. We ask you to respond quickly if you are interested in taking advantage of discounts for airlines. That is about it.

We have four hours to do the estimates of the Office of the Assembly. You have those in the estimates books that are located in volume 5 of general government. We will provide you with a little additional information.

Mr. Speaker is here. We are a little overwhelmed. We are not used to having so many staff people in the room. We are pleased that you are here. You fill the room with an ambience that is very nice, warm and welcome.

Mr. Speaker, do you want to begin with some opening remarks?

Mr. Speaker: Because it is a newly formed committee, I thought the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly would want to meet some of the people who serve us so well here in the assembly. That is one of the reasons we have a number of people here. Later, you will find other reasons that we have members of the staff here.

To begin with, this is my second opportunity to come before a committee with the estimates of the Office of the Assembly. I believe this is the committee's first opportunity to review any estimates of any ministry. I am looking forward to spending the next four hours with you and I hope the committee members and you, Mr. Chairman, will have a lot of good questions for us.

Before we begin the questioning, I would like to make a few comments about the budget. Before that, in case any of the members are not aware of the process of coming to these amounts, the process is that all these items are generally approved through the Legislative Assembly Act or through the Board of Internal Economy. Just as a reminder, you know that the Board of Internal Economy is made up by order in council of three members of the executive council and one member from each of the parties in the Legislature.

Since there is a slight increase in the budget of the Office of the Assembly this year, at the outset of the review I thought it necessary and very important for me to highlight briefly some of the major expenditures which are planned. I also want to point out that there are now more than 1,100 people who make up the community coming under the Office of the Assembly, which is an increase of 375 staff over the last year. The majority of these work directly for members and the caucuses and have had to be supplied with things such as desks, telephones and equipment, as well as working space.

As you have noted on page 8 in the estimates book, the budget of the Office of the Assembly for 1986-87 totals \$67,251,500, which is an increase of \$15,260,800. There are several what I call extraordinary, one-time-only costs listed that are capital-intensive in nature. I refer specifically to the new electronic Hansard television system being installed over the summer in both the House and the Amethyst committee room.

The approximate cost of this installation will be \$10.4 million, of which \$3.2 million relates to distribution costs both within Queen's Park and throughout the province. Also included are approximately \$1.5 million in renovation and installation costs, \$2.2 million worth of state-of-

the-art video equipment for the chamber, \$360,000 for a new audio system in the House, \$706,000 to equip the Amethyst Room, \$590,000 for simultaneous interpretation facilities in the chamber and committee room, and \$357,000 for a new, indirect lighting system in the chamber.

Also in the category of one-time expenditures is the new office automation system currently being installed in all 125 members' offices. Installation will be completed by the end of the calendar year. A total of \$3 million will be spent on equipment and computer software, \$567,000 for maintenance and installation and \$367,000 for staffing and educational support materials.

I do not know whether you want to follow along on page 8 of the estimates book, but in examining item 1 of the estimates, the Office of the Speaker, I should point out this also contains a nonrecurring amount of \$277,000, which represents the costs associated with Ontario acting as host in late July to the 26th annual Canadian regional conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

Under vote 3501, item 3, sessional requirements, provision has been made for members to prepare and distribute a third constituency newsletter, which amounts to an additional \$640,000 annually.

As a result of deliberations by the appropriate committees of the House and by the Board of Internal Economy, the members' constituency office program has been considerably enhanced. The costs associated with these new provisions represent an increase of \$824,000 from last year, and these are found under item 5.

To make it possible for the caucuses to provide members with better central services, it has been necessary for them to make considerable additions in the area of staff and equipment under item 7. This accounts for \$1,235,000 more than last year.

With regard to item 10, information services, I have already commented on the impact of the new electronic Hansard system and the members' information system on the overall budget of the Office of the Assembly. Suffice to say, these two items totalling \$14.5 million represent almost the entire increase of the assembly vote over last year.

Finally, I would like to touch on an increase of \$674,000 under item 11, administration. The Board of Internal Economy has spent some time examining manpower requirements in this area. We concluded that to provide so many improved programs for members and to sustain such large

numbers of new support staff for members and caucuses, it is necessary to provide additional manpower to handle such matters as payroll, purchasing, accounting, banking, personnel and other centralized client services.

I am mindful of the fact that the day-to-day operations of the Legislative Assembly have become a major undertaking both in terms of finance and manpower. It is my hope that these additions to the members' services will be beneficial by informing the public of the activities at Queen's Park and also assist in serving all members' constituents more effectively.

So that members of committee will have a little better picture of the expenditures, we had some charts prepared. I have asked that they be distributed.

Mr. Chairman: Members have them.

4:10 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: They have those? The pie-shaped chart shows the estimates and the percentages that many of the items take. The second one, "The Office of the Legislative Assembly, Comparison by Standard Account," was really done in colour, and it is a little difficult to tell what this really means. The first line is 1984-85, the next is 1985-86 and the next is 1986-87. I hope you can understand that clearly enough.

I and the staff who are here serving you through the Office of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario look forward to answering any questions you might have. I do not know whether you are aware of the members of the staff who are here: Mr. Lewis, the Clerk of the House, Mr. Fleming, the director of administration, Mr. Waters, the director of finance, Molly Pellicchia, Beryl Venter, Jan Robinson, Mary Dickerson, Cynthia Smith, Karin Scotland, Peter Brannan, Linda Phillips, of interparliamentary relations, and Tom Mitchinson, director of information services. These are the people who are prepared to assist in answering any questions that I cannot answer. Brian Land is not able to be with us; neither is Ellen Schoenberger, our director of human resources.

In closing, because of new provisional standing order 98h, I look forward to a close association with this committee on the administration of the House, on the provision of services and facilities to the members and, through electronic Hansard, on the promotion of legislative activities.

Mr. Chairman: Are there any comments by any members? We do not have a great deal of

time, so it may assist us if we stay on a general note and make sure all members get the opportunity to raise whatever concerns they have.

Mr. Warner: I have half a dozen items, and I will attempt not to use up too much of the time. If other members are anxious to get on with this, they should let me know and I will stop.

Mr. Chairman: Just before we begin, if you have major concerns that you want to raise, would you give me a little notice? Otherwise, we will just let any member who has concerns raise them.

Mr. Warner: We want to make sure we divvy up the time. First, I wish to mention to the Speaker that I, as an individual member of the assembly, appreciate very much not just your presence in the chamber but also the objectivity that you bring to the position, which is of immense help. Occasionally, you may have noticed that members tend to get a little out of hand. You are able to bring some order and calm to the situation.

Beyond that, most, and probably all, members are most appreciative of the staff around this building and the service they render to members. It is quite extraordinary. It is always given very cheerfully and always as quickly as possible. It is a very professional staff. From my encounters, they are extremely professional in carrying out their duties. As members, we are quite fortunate to have such professional staff to deliver the services that make our jobs much easier.

In that light and in the light of the new approach we have applied to committees in general and to this committee in particular, I have a number of concerns that I wish to raise. As the Speaker is aware, the members' services committee has been folded and its duties assumed by this committee, the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly. We perceive that there is a wider and more active role that the Legislative Assembly committee can take. I think the members, from their experience not only here but also in other jurisdictions where we have been and have met with other legislatures, have a number of ideas about how we can best serve the other members of the assembly and, in co-operation with the Speaker, try to provide the kind of place the members want in order to work, and work well.

A couple of things that came to my attention recently lead me to believe that maybe we have to take a look at the process that is used. For example, this committee dealt with the simultaneous translation question. We dealt with it in

terms of principle, concept, cost and the practical considerations that would result from a decision. We dealt with it fairly thoroughly. After it was passed by the committee, it then went on to the Board of Internal Economy, at which time I think it was perhaps discussed over again, covering the same ground that had already been dealt with in this committee.

I am not sure this is really a terribly useful exercise. I have a feeling that as we go through this, what may be more helpful is for the board to consider the financial implications involved or extra-budgetary amounts that may be requested. If budgets have been set and if committees have a clear idea what they are supposed to do, then what should be left is for the Board of Internal Economy to be aware of that and, if there are additional budgetary implications, to deal with those. What might assist both us and the Board of Internal Economy is if the appropriate staff who have an interest in the subject matter could attend the meeting of this committee. They would be fully briefed on the subject matter as this committee deals with it. Then at the point when it goes forward to the Board of Internal Economy, it should be a relatively brief exercise.

To go back to simultaneous French translation for a minute, if we were doing that over again, it would probably make sense to have whatever staff would be directly affected by that decision present at the time we discussed the issue here, having approved of it in principle and in terms of what physically had to take place in the building. Then when it goes to the Board of Internal Economy, all that is left to do is to approve the actual amount. The staff would have prepared elaborate notes on this and would know that the committee have agreed with it unanimously—a three-party agreement. It should really expedite things.

I realize that because we are in a new era of how to do things around the building, it requires a bit of adjustment. It is important because this committee, as we understand, and as I think all of the members of the assembly understand, is the members' committee—the committee to which the members can address their concerns about services to members. All three parties are here. This is the place where the debate will take place. Also, it will be in Hansard. From there, when we finish, it goes to the board for ratification in terms of spending money.

That leads me to the question about the status of the Legislative Assembly Act because I think it will supply us with some of the mechanism that

we are looking for. I am wondering if the Speaker knows what stage this act is at.

Would you prefer that I go through all of my questions and then you can come back to them?

Mr. Speaker: It is immaterial to me. If you want to take them one at a time, then maybe some other members want to—

Mr. Chairman: Is there any other member who wants to raise some questions around this matter?

No? Then maybe we could halt here and you could respond.

4:20 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: With regard to simultaneous translation, the board, to my knowledge, has not made any decision on that. It has not been before the board.

I felt that, in the past, there was close co-ordination with some members of the staff in certain areas and members of the staff had attended, whenever requested, to meet with this committee.

I recall I received quite a number of reports and comments and I read the minutes of the meeting as well. However, I appreciate what you are saying. You are saying that in this committee, as the chairman has said earlier regarding a matter that was before the board, that probably the same matter was worked over twice. Because of the new supposed guidelines within the framework of the formation of this new committee, I think we will have to look at it a little more carefully. I hope we can come to some substantial agreement so this will happen.

Mr. Warner: What is the status of the Legislative Assembly Act?

Mr. Speaker: The status of the Legislative Assembly Act is that I have the copy that, I guess, was changed the last time that the members' indemnities were increased. I have not seen any other changes to the Legislative Assembly Act to this time. It is as simple as that.

Mr. Warner: We were anticipating a new act.

Mr. Chairman: Rumour has it that there is one in the works but the Speaker probably would not see that until the government decides on it.

Mr. Warner: Oh, I see.

Mr. Speaker: I certainly have not seen it. I have heard from other members that, by way of rumour, there is one in the mill, but I certainly have not seen a word on it.

Mr. Warner: You mentioned something which really triggers a sore point, and that is the mundane and trivial matter of our salaries. I have

a concern, as things seem to have unfolded over the last three years in particular, that the commission which was originally established by this assembly to have an objective view of the members' salaries—

Mr. Newman: The term is "indemnities."

Mr. Warner: Indemnities, sorry; it is a more genteel term—the money which we receive was to be at arm's length from the members thereby ensuring some objectivity which we believe the public would appreciate. The commission then reports back to the assembly and then there is legislation.

I may be mistaken on this point but I think the commission's last three recommendations in succession have all been rejected. If I was sitting on a commission, I would reach a point where I would wonder about my relevance. I am given a job to do and I do the job; I give my honest and objective opinion about what the indemnities and benefits should be and then that advice is rejected.

We may be reaching a fork in the road where we are going to do one of two things. We are either going to disband the commission or make the role useful. It will have to be one or the other. Certainly as a member, I think it is ridiculous to carry on the way we are. I know it probably places the Speaker in an awkward position, but it is under the assembly program budget.

Do you have any thoughts on the matter?

Mr. Speaker: In reference to your comments, first of all I should say I was probably remiss in not introducing to you the commission. We have our new chairman here, Mr. Donald MacDonald, and his staff. They are waiting to come before you to answer any questions you have pertaining to the commission.

At the moment, as Speaker, the only responsibility I have is to make certain that the annual report, and the report on the proposed indemnities, etc., for the members, produced by the commission are laid before the members which, as you know, was done a very short time ago.

There have been great discussions in the past number of years regarding this and it has been the desire of governments to make that decision. Many members before you have stated that they felt it should be an arm's length decision.

Mr. Chairman: We have the chairman and several people here from the commission. Is it the wish of the committee to ask them to participate?

Mr. Bossy: I want to make a supplementary comment. I would hope the commission does not

disband because I think in terms of equal pay for work of equal value the commission may look at that in a different light.

Mr. Chairman: You are not talking about parking lot attendants either, are you?

Mr. Bossy: No. I am talking about members' indemnities. It is always different when you are sitting in the back benches and drawing what they call minimum pay. I believe that happens in industry too. If you are in a minimum pay category, you are more apt to consider yourself grossly underpaid compared to other members doing work of equal value.

I have always thought that the reports by the commission contained reasonable suggestions. It is never the political will of the government of the day to acknowledge that because it is not very popular to raise one's pay. Unless there is unanimous—and I mean unanimous—consent by every member of the Legislature to accept the commission's report, I do not think we will ever see any action of any consequence on that. That is unfortunate.

I would have to conclude that it must be at arm's length. The report must come in at arm's length, and that would carry some weight to be adopted. I hope the day is not too far away when a report is issued which takes a serious look at what a member is worth. We all think we know what we are personally worth, but if it is at arm's length, then we can sit down and possibly adopt the report. I have not seen that and I do not know whether the new government, which I happen to be part of, has the same feelings as other governments I have known and may not have the political will. I do not think the public out there is willing to accept it, and that is unfortunate. We must then live by the old standards.

4:30 p.m.

Mr. Warner: Can we hear from the commission?

Mr. Chairman: Excuse me, did you want the commissioners to come up and participate?

Mr. Bossy: Yes.

Mr. Chairman: Perhaps the chairman will introduce the people he has brought with him this afternoon. Most of you will know the chairman of the commission, who has been around this assembly for some time. You may not know all of the other members.

Perhaps he would begin the process by introducing the other gentlemen who are with him.

Mr. MacDonald: They are Don Joynt, executive director of the commission, and Bob Dobson, who is the registrar.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I would like to say, having served on the Board of Internal Economy for some four years and on the previous members' services committee, that we have dealt with this problem. I have been very pleased with the reception by the board of many of the suggestions from the members of this committee in the past.

I feel quite strongly that we should accept the recommendations of the commission, especially pertaining to our indemnities. I feel the public is very disillusioned with politicians setting their own salaries and I wish it would have happened years ago. We are at the level now where, no matter what happens, it is perceived that we are imposing our will. I wish we could come up with a mechanism whereby the commission could make the recommendation and, whatever it is, that is automatically accepted by the Legislature.

Mr. Bossy mentioned that if it is at arm's length, it may be perceived to be acceptable. It is certainly far better than the method we have today where we sit in the House and, supposedly in an unanimous vote, accept something when it is all hammered out before that this is it, take it or leave it. It is usually in the last day or so of the sitting of the House. It gives the public the wrong idea of what we are trying to do.

If we could rationalize why the commission should make the determination of our salaries, it would be better for the political process as a whole. This is one recommendation that the former members' services committee made and it was not accepted—though they accepted part of the recommendation—so we are not entirely pleased with it.

I would like this committee at some point to carry on in the same vein and try to encourage the government and the board to accept the commission's recommendation on a yearly basis or whatever time frame it suggests.

Mr. Chairman: I wonder whether the chairman would like to respond to that.

Mr. MacDonald: I was very fearful a moment ago when it was suggested that if the recommendations of the commission were not deemed to be acceptable, the commission should be disbanded. We have a few other things to do.

Mr. Wiseman: We are just trying to scare you.

Mr. MacDonald: I do not scare easily, particularly if it comes from David Warner. I think I accurately reflect the views of the commission, prior to my taking over the chairmanship, that there was a growing feeling, if I can put it that way, that after three rejections of

their recommendation that perhaps it might be appropriate that the responsibility be placed with a body whose recommendations would be acceptable. That is where it stands now. I do not know that the commission has come to any specific decision on it. Obviously, it does whatever is decided at this level as its responsibility.

Mr. Chairman: Are there any other comments on this matter?

Mr. Warner: I have one question. How would the commission respond to the suggestion that the commission be granted the authority to set the members' indemnities?

Mr. Joynt: They are quite receptive to it. I think that is the general feeling.

Mr. MacDonald: Don has been with the commission from its earliest days and his view is that it would be acceptable.

Mr. Sterling: I have a supplementary. Do any of you feel the salaries of the MPPs should be cut?

Mr. Chairman: This is an important question.

Mr. MacDonald: Speaking personally, I would unhesitatingly say no.

Mr. Wiseman: That makes us feel better.

Mr. Chairman: I am trying to recall. Has there ever been a report which addressed itself to the mechanism of how the indemnities are set? They are set by a rather strange technique of an amendment to the Legislative Assembly Act, which is about the most awkward way one could go about it. I do not recall a report which addressed itself to that. Has there been one?

Mr. Joynt: I do not believe so, no.

Mr. Chairman: Are there any other questions for the Commission on Election Contributions and Expenses? I think these gentlemen could rest for a while.

Mr. Warner: I want to explore another area which is of interest and of concern to me. I preface it by saying that I had an interest in this before an unfortunate incident occurred in the chamber a little while back, so it is not based on that. The incident underscored, in my mind, that perhaps we should take a second look at how we handle these situations.

There are certain events, and personalities who visit our Queen's Park location, which are nonpartisan in nature. A response from the Legislative Assembly as a whole is required to this group or individuals who are visiting here. Ontario is hosting the Canadian Parliamentary

Association in July and that kind of event we understand. There are other occasions and you will recall, as Speaker, when we had a delegation here and, unfortunately, partly because of an unfamiliarity with the new rules, there was not an opportunity given to the other two parties to welcome the group. It was whisked off, I assume, to a government office where it was given a pleasant reception.

I would like to see—and it properly belongs first with this committee working in conjunction with the Speaker—on a regular basis, when we have visitors to our province, especially if they are from outside Ontario and from outside the country, or special individuals such as Bishop Tutu or anyone else of that stature, that there be an appropriate place and time for all members of the assembly, obviously at the direction of the Speaker, to provide a reception for the group or the individual.

The setting could be as informal as possible, but it should provide an opportunity, even when the House is sitting, for members to drop by casually for a few minutes to say hello, to bring greetings, etc. so that all parties can participate in this and that there is a sense that we, as a group of legislators of Ontario, are welcoming people from Wisconsin or a group from Great Britain or wherever they happen to be from.

It is appropriate for us to do that, but unless I am mistaken, it has been a little more ad hoc than anything else. When we do it, especially when the Speaker is directing it, it is done extremely well, but I do not think it is systematic enough. I know there are a number of members, for example, who serve on this committee and have a particular interest in how legislatures work. They would enjoy the opportunity to meet legislators from other jurisdictions, who are perhaps here for only a short while, in an informal setting, something casual, and have a chance to chat with them. We do not often get that opportunity. I would think it is something this committee, in conjunction with you and your office, could help make happen more regularly and in a nonpartisan way.

4:40 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: In response to your comments, we have had a little difficulty and hesitation since the new provisional orders. Prior to that, it seemed to be much freer for members to get up and say "Welcome to the Legislature" practically any time they wanted to, on a point of privilege or a point of order or something like that.

It does present a problem. For example, today I was notified at about two minutes to two that

this individual was in the building. The Speaker's gallery should be used for visiting parliamentarians who are introduced by the Speaker. It should be used for heads of state and people who are officially visiting Ontario. The Speaker and only the Speaker should introduce that individual or group to the Legislature.

There have been some occasions since the rules have changed when we have had a little difficulty. I agree we should make it somewhat clearer to the members that the Speaker's gallery should be used only for introductions by the Speaker. I have tried to keep it to that. I have run into trouble on occasion, but that has been my objective.

In reference to your comments that all members should have an opportunity to drop in to meet many of the guests of the Legislature, I agree wholeheartedly, if we can co-ordinate it. I would like to see it co-ordinated somehow. We have protocol. We have any member informing me that someone may be in the House. It is most difficult, and it usually happens at the last minute. It may come from the federal government. It is difficult to arrange.

If we knew in advance of anyone coming, I as Speaker would be glad to arrange a reception for the members. If we think enough of that person or group of people to introduce them to the members, the members should have an opportunity to meet them personally as well.

Mr. Warner: Good, I appreciate that.

Mr. Wiseman: Perhaps you have talked to the member for High Park-Swansea (Mr. Shymko) on that point. An individual listening to the member for High-Park-Swansea asked why the cardinal was not allowed to sit in the Speaker's gallery yesterday, because he represents a lot of people of a particular church and is a visitor here in Canada.

In the future, I might have the opportunity to have someone who ranks up there and who I feel should be in the Speaker's gallery. What is your ruling that did not allow my colleague to have that person up there?

A member of a legislature in the United States, Tennessee or somewhere, was introduced today. Even though I am not of the same faith, I felt that a cardinal should have at least been recognized. If Cardinal Carter were here, I am sure he would have sat in the Speaker's gallery and been introduced by yourself or someone else.

There might have been a good reason. I understand Mr. Shymko asked a day or so ahead, but the request was not granted. Just for members such as myself and others who want to know

about your ruling, what was the reason and what can we do in the future to ensure that if we have somebody in the Speaker's gallery, he will be recognized?

Mr. Mancini: I think we should draw the line at the monsignors.

Mr. Chairman: Please do not heckle the Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I am hesitating to answer because I told Mr. Shymko in the Legislature that I would respond to him personally and I have not done that yet. I will. I have been at the Board of Internal Economy for two days, a very quiet House and now estimates. I hope I will be getting back to him tomorrow. That is why I hesitate to explain.

Mr. Chairman: I think the point Mr. Wiseman makes is that the members are not aware of the protocol for this. Is there anything in writing, other than going back over years of the Speaker's rulings on things? Is there a simple way that members could inform themselves as to what the protocol is?

If you had a guest you thought should be introduced by the Speaker, you could check a book, which would say: "This is the pattern; this is how we go about it. There will be a reception afterwards." Is there anything like that?

Mr. Speaker: There are no written guidelines. I believe some were started about 10 years ago but they have never been completed or approved. There were some suggestions made at that time.

It is very difficult to write guidelines as to who should be introduced in the Speaker's gallery. As you already know, we changed that process with unanimous support in the House. One day, very recently, I believe the Premier (Mr. Peterson) introduced someone, then other members spoke. Those things can be changed.

The protocol is that the request should come stating whether the person is another parliamentarian. After all, this is a parliament and any visiting parliamentarian has the right to be introduced to the members. This also takes in, as I said, any head of state, or any Ontario individual or group of individuals who have achieved national or international stature. You could almost stop there. That covers a lot of people.

The other protocol is that if an individual member has someone he wants introduced in the Speaker's gallery, particularly if he wants other members to speak and welcome that individual, it would be common courtesy for that member to

go to the other parties and say: "I have so-and-so here. Would you like to arrange something?"

As the Speaker, I have set down the rules you have made for statements by members and ministers. I have been very strict with ministers, who have groups like "Esprit de Corps." I will not allow them in the Speaker's gallery, because that is quite different.

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: If a member wants an individual introduced from the Speaker's gallery, and that person is not a parliamentarian, head of state or official visitor to Ontario, the member should have the common courtesy to refer it to or discuss it with the other parties. If there is eventual unanimous consent to introduce and welcome this individual or group to the Legislature, I will be most willing to agree to that. I do not think it is the Speaker's job to make arrangements for another member.

4:50 p.m.

Mr. Wiseman: To make it perfectly clear, as the chairman said, we should have some guidelines to which we can refer. Even after what you have said, I still think that person—in the opinion of both myself and Mr. Shymko—represented a large church and should have been recognized by the Speaker. It gives a little more honour and respect to the position he holds than sitting in a crowded area as he was yesterday. I would like to know, so that everyone is treated the same way, what the guidelines are and whether the person you want to have in the Speaker's gallery will be introduced and will fall within those guidelines, or he or she does not, and that is clear.

We have guidelines around here coming out of our ears and I think another set of guidelines for that would get around this and not put the Speaker in a bad light. Perhaps if he is playing politics or something—but we know he is a fair guy and the whole bit. It makes you dance a little bit sometimes when a person with as high a rank as that comes in and is not even recognized. All I am asking for are some guidelines that we can all go by so we know where we are. Then, if those guidelines are broken, we can squawk like the devil.

Mr. Speaker: I think, in fairness to Yuri—there are a couple of other things I want to say to Yuri that I do not want to say here; it is not unparliamentary language at all—with the new rules, it really makes it difficult if the Speaker introduces somebody and other things happen after. If you want the same guidelines as the

House of Commons, that would be great. No one introduces anybody anywhere in the Speaker's gallery other than the Speaker.

Mr. Wiseman: I do not want to get into that, Mr. Speaker. I have nothing against introducing people; I think it is good to recognize them. It is just that we want to be sure that everyone is following the same guidelines and everyone knows what he has to go through to get you to introduce a guest in the Speaker's gallery.

Mr. Chairman: That might be a help. Even around my office, for example, I know when a procedural argument is about to emerge because somebody comes in and steals my Erskine May for the day. At least when we know we are getting into this kind of cesspool, we know people are drawing these three books out of somebody's office. They are not written guidelines in the sense that they are all in one volume and this is how it happens, but we know—

Mr. Treleaven: Your reference to cesspool—

Mr. Chairman: What is your problem?

Mr. Treleaven: Your lightning retorts are usually much better than "cesspool," at least in certain quarters.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: Mr. Chairman, can the Speaker not call on the services of the Deputy Speaker to help resolve these issues?

Mr. Chairman: He is busy with other matters.

Mr. Mancini: I understand the concerns brought up by Mr. Shymko the other day and addressed again today by Mr. Wiseman. I think it is very difficult for the Speaker to make all these judgement calls and we certainly do not want to put him in a position where we might take offence for something he does for some perceived political reason.

I think it might be a good idea for us to review the situation in Ottawa and in some other legislatures to determine what guidelines they have, not only for the introduction of the guests by the Speaker but who can be in the Speaker's gallery. Perhaps we can contact Quebec—

Mr. Wiseman: We might look at the Ottawa ones but I do not always agree with the rules they have. We may have some that are better and they can follow our guidelines.

Mr. Chairman: I think it would be nice to have some comparison.

Mr. Wiseman: I just did not want it left that they were supreme.

Mr. Speaker: I appreciate your suggestions and I will take them under advisement and give it some thought, because we are working under provisional standing orders now and we would like to make some changes following December 18 or whenever they terminate.

Mr. Chairman: Is there anything else on this item?

David, you had some other items. Just before you start, we want to remind you that we want to share the time as best we can so that if you have an item you want to raise, give me a little note or let me know about it so that I make sure you have time to do that.

Mr. Warner: Perhaps we could agree to try a little different approach in terms of receiving and recognizing individuals and delegations from other jurisdictions. For example, we should be able not only to recognize them in the House, but also, subsequent to that, to hold a casual, informal reception at some location here in the building where the members, duly notified, would have the opportunity to stop by and say hello. Do we still have difficulty with the split jurisdiction in this building?

Mr. Speaker: I do not think I can say we do, according to your question regarding visitors.

Mr. Warner: Suppose you determine that room 230 would be an appropriate place to hold a reception for some visitors who arrived here, say, a legislative assembly committee delegation from the state of Michigan. Suppose half a dozen people arrived and were recognized in the gallery, and it was determined that an hour later there would be an informal gathering or reception in room 230. Is that under your jurisdiction? Can you make sure there will be a reception in room 230?

Mr. Speaker: It is being used now as a committee room because the Amethyst Room is under reconstruction for electronic Hansard; so I think there would be difficulty. However, your committee report said there should be a members' lounge. If one leaves the members' dining room, there should be a members' lounge somewhere. I think there would always be a room available if there were advance notice.

Mr. Warner: I am not making myself clear. Does the whole building come under your jurisdiction?

Mr. Speaker: My office does not even come under my jurisdiction. It is an order in council vote.

Mr. Warner: How and when will this problem be resolved? When will the entire

building come under the jurisdiction of the Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: That is a question I cannot begin to answer.

Mr. Newman: We have been working on that for some years.

Mr. Mancini: Soon; early fall.

Mr. Warner: Of which millenium?

Mr. Speaker: I have no idea. I just cannot answer that.

Mr. Newman: We can do it any time we want.

Mr. Warner: Quite frankly, it is ludicrous. I do not understand the logic that is being applied if the principle is that the Legislative Assembly is to accommodate the members and their activities. If Mr. Speaker has been appointed by the members to preside over their activities in the building, then does it not naturally follow that the entire building comes under his jurisdiction? This is an old argument that went on long before I arrived on the scene, and it continues. I would like to know whether anyone is making sure this thing is brought to a resolution and, if so, when. I gather from what you say that you cannot answer. Is there anyone in the room who can answer?

Mr. Treleaven: Coincidentally, I have the document in hand. I was looking at it instead of listening to you. My apologies.

There are amendments going through that were in draft form some time back, at the same time the provisional standing orders were being dealt with. The amendments to the Legislative Assembly Act had been bounced around. At one point, we thought they were going to come in at the same time as the standing orders, but they have been deferred. They are now sort of wending their way, and I would say soon. I imagine the chairman also has some knowledge of this.

Mr. Chairman: In the fullness of time, the forces of goodness and light will produce a new Legislative Assembly Act. I would say it is very soon.

Mr. Warner: You are very helpful.

5 p.m.

Mr. Wiseman: I wonder whether we may be able to help the Speaker a little if he is going to bring in guidelines on who can sit in the Speaker's gallery and so on.

We have seen people being introduced at different times, and that may be difficult for the Speaker. Perhaps guidelines for members could say that the person to be introduced, and whoever

his guests are, have to be there at the start of the House, after prayers. The Speaker would then introduce them at that time.

You have had to introduce them at different times in the last while. For the layman sitting out there listening, it would make more sense if the guidelines stated that they must be there at 2 p.m. Then you could introduce them right at the start.

Mr. Speaker: Are you referring only to the Speaker's gallery?

Mr. Wiseman: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: I could issue guidelines and see that all members have them, but if somebody comes in at 3 p.m., it is pretty hard to tell him that he has to be here at two.

Mr. Wiseman: I think it is up to whoever makes arrangements with you. You mentioned earlier that in order to be polite, they should let you know in writing a day or so ahead. If they do that, someone from your office could notify them that, according to the rules of the House, they would have to be there by a set time in order to be recognized.

I happen to think that the start of the sitting is better than throughout the sitting. If they know that, so be it; if they do not follow that, they will not be introduced.

Mr. Speaker: That is a good point. In most cases, when we have advance notice, we try to make certain that they are in at two. On most occasions, it does happen. Today, as an example, I knew at about two minutes to two and there seemed to be a considerable amount of discussion right at the opening. For some reason, I forgot to pick up my paper until after the members' statements.

Mr. Wiseman: It is not every day, we hope, for your sake.

Mr. Warner: I have two points relating to that. I do not know what participation you have in this; so I am just exploring it.

I have a concern about the building itself and what kinds of plans are under way for its general restoration. By way of background, this committee has had the advantage of looking at a number of legislatures which have recently, over the last three to five years, undergone substantial renovations to bring them back up to the splendour of when they were first built.

The renovations were quite spectacular. I remember the one in Albany, and particularly the one in Austin. The people had a real sense of pride in their legislative building, understanding that it represented their area and jurisdiction and captured some of the history of their times.

Connected with that is the question of the dining room. I realize there has been pressure on about ending evening service and so on, but that is niggling around the edge of it. Has the Speaker given any thought to having the parliamentary dining room located on the fourth floor, overlooking University Avenue, as part of the general restoration and renovation of the entire building?

Mr. Speaker: I have to say, officially, that I had not really given that any thought at all. On a personal basis, with what we have now and thoughts I have had personally, it is worth considering. As a matter of fact, I suggested to the Board of Internal Economy that we use the cafeteria instead of the dining room. Maybe we should have some steps out of the cafeteria and open tables and umbrellas on the front lawn too. That would be quite nice.

I have not participated in any discussions regarding the overall restoration of the building. I believe consideration has commenced, mainly with the Ministry of Government Services, but as Speaker, I have not participated.

Mr. Warner: Is that properly under your jurisdiction, to be involved—

Mr. Speaker: It really is, yes.

Mr. Warner: —or does that belong to the Ministry of Government Services?

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I am concerned at the dramatic increase in estimates of over \$15 million, many of which you mentioned are one-shot deals. I also support the concept of restoring the building to its former appearance, but in a reasonable manner and over a period of time.

I am also concerned about the dining room. The present dining room facilities adequately service the members. We have spent a lot of money on other necessary items; so let us have some restraint.

I am totally opposed to anything of that nature. We should be more concerned with the present expenditures and not get into more, with one exception. We should make certain this building does not deteriorate further and commence restoration.

Mr. Wiseman: I realize the building comes under Ministry of Government Services, but the Speaker and staff of the assembly might support a suggestion made to that ministry concerning the fact that this building will be 100 years old in about four or five years.

The suggestion was that a big clock could sit in the large circular area at the western end and visible from University Avenue. I understand it could be

done with chimes or bells for about \$400,000. That would be a project four or five years down the road on the building's 100th anniversary.

I know there is a lot of other work to be done in here, but it would certainly enhance the building. As you drive up University Avenue, it would be quite impressive, even though it may not be as elaborate as the one in Ottawa.

Mr. Chairman: Is this a clock you are trying to sell us?

Mr. Wiseman: No, I am not in the clock business. I understand that when they built the building—I know Rod was not around then, but he knows a lot of the history—it is possible a clock was intended for two spaces but they ran out of money.

It is something we could look forward to completing. We may spend more money than that celebrating our 100th year here, but a clock would be of lasting enjoyment to the people in this area, with the lovely chimes and so on.

Mr. Speaker: For the information of the member, I believe someone within the building has a sketch of that and it is already on file.

5:10 p.m.

Mr. Wiseman: I have spoken to him as well. I just thought a little support from the Speaker's office might help as well. Remo is here. He will take it back to the right office.

Mr. Warner: On the next item. Mr. Johnson may be enamoured of disappearing underground to eat food, but I think it deserves a better approach.

Am I correct in thinking that this building—the chamber and basically the building—is accessible for disabled people and handicapped individuals?

Mr. Speaker: That is really within the responsibility of the Ministry of Government Services.

Mr. Warner: Not the Speaker? Why?

Mr. Speaker: As a matter of fact, the Ministry of Government Services is responsible for any construction in this building—walls, flooring, that sort of thing. I do not know what you are thinking of. Are you thinking of the ramp out front?

Mr. Warner: Let us back up a bit. The public is allowed into the building to sit in the galleries and watch the proceedings.

Mr. Speaker: That is right.

Mr. Warner: If a member of the public does not behave himself or herself, it is under your jurisdiction to have that individual removed.

Mr. Speaker: It is under the jurisdiction of security.

Mr. Warner: In essence, you have allowed the individual into the building on our behalf. Can I assume that you similarly allow a disabled person into the building? You do not make a distinction. When we found that people who are confined to wheelchairs were not able to get into the building, ramps were built. However, that no longer comes under your jurisdiction. Is that what you are telling me?

Mr. Speaker: I really do not know of any time that it actually came under the Speaker's jurisdiction. Is that correct, Mr. Fleming?

Mr. Fleming: A new ramp is being built.

Mr. Speaker: I know. A new system is being built out in front, but it is by Government Services.

Mr. Warner: Did the Speaker have anything to do with the decision to allow greater access for disabled people into the building?

Mr. Speaker: I was informed of it, yes.

Mr. Warner: You did not render an opinion?

Mr. Speaker: No. I was asked whether I felt the system was suitable, but I had no decision-making role in it because it does not come under the budget of the Speaker.

Mr. Warner: In your opinion, is it appropriate that disabled people have the opportunity to come into the building and witness what happens in the chamber?

Mr. Speaker: Definitely, yes.

Mr. Warner: Should disabled people also have the opportunity to visit members in their offices?

Mr. Speaker: I see no reason they should not under general circumstances, if they are not demonstrating in any way.

Mr. Warner: Not only members' offices here, but members' offices in the ridings, their constituency offices. Would that also be appropriate?

Mr. Wiseman: You are being led.

Mr. Speaker: We feel very strongly on that. I know your committee feels very strongly that there should be guidelines for many things. To my knowledge, there are no guidelines set out for constituency offices; so I suppose somebody should look at setting some up.

Mr. Warner: It would perhaps be appropriate for this committee to take a look at it. I raise this because it seems to be somewhat of a contradiction to put the emphasis, as we have over the past

so many years, on making sure handicapped individuals are able to enter this building and to visit members' offices here. At the same time, we are apparently not prepared to make the same allowance for the members' offices in the ridings. It will vary from riding to riding.

Mr. Newman: You had the choice of where you located your office.

Mr. Wiseman: You pick your riding office, Mr. Warner, and you should pick it with that in mind.

Mr. Warner: There is probably little point in debating the question here, but the facts will speak for themselves. I will not presume to take the time of the committee to unload the individual difficulty I face, because it is a unique situation and one over which I have very little control.

Mr. Wiseman: Are you on the second or third floor?

Mr. Warner: I am tucked away in a little corner in the back of someone else's place—10 feet by 12 feet.

My question is a wider one. If there are no guidelines, as you say, surely it is a good principle that if we are prepared to say that handicapped individuals should have access to Queen's Park and the members' offices here, that same sensitivity should be applied to the constituency offices.

Since conditions vary drastically from one end of the province to the other, there has to be a very particular approach to how we provide that service. However, the principle should be that disabled individuals, the elderly, injured workers and so on, should have the opportunity to visit their elected representatives. You are telling me that no such guideline exists right now.

Mr. Newman: Do you not make house calls?

Mr. Warner: All the time.

Mr. Newman: There you are. I make house calls all the time. I have no problems.

Mr. Speaker: I do not know if you want me to respond, or if I really can respond to that. We had a lengthy discussion in the Board of Internal Economy regarding the matter you have raised. I cannot even tell you—was it agreed that we would set up guidelines, or not?

Mr. Waters: The board did not set guidelines.

Mr. Speaker: Did they not decide that we should?

Mr. Waters: No decision or direction was outlined.

Mr. Speaker: We came to no conclusion, but it was discussed at some length. There are representatives of all of us on the board and I am certain that those people, if it is brought to their attention, would bring it up at the board or before this committee.

Mr. Warner: I appreciate that. The issue is extremely important to me.

I might say just in passing, as I have wrestled through this difficult situation in my area, that the staff, both here in the assembly office and at the Ministry of Government Services, were extremely helpful, very co-operative and very professional in their approach. I was quite impressed, not only with the quality of the work but also the speed with which it was done. It was accomplished very quickly. However, I still have the problem.

Mr. Chairman: May I intervene now? Mr. Bossy had a question on this.

Mr. Bossy: This is not on the same item.

Mr. Warner: I want to ask questions on two other areas. One is on Hansard and the other is on the legislative library. If I could proceed with Hansard, is that all right?

Mr. Chairman: Please come up here, Mr. Brannan.

Mr. Warner: Mr. Brannan, I would appreciate some detailed explanation, because I really have only sketchy information. Hansard has been in the process of relocating its facilities. Is that correct?

Mr. Brannan: Yes, that is correct.

Mr. Warner: Has that caused a difficulty for Hansard, particularly in trying to provide Instant Hansard to committees?

Mr. Brannan: Yes, it certainly has.

Mr. Warner: Could you elaborate a bit on what change has occurred, whether it is all finalized now, what the status of your operation is, and what the time lag should be for committees in receiving Instant Hansard?

5:20 p.m.

Mr. Brannan: Yes. Probably the short answer is that in any event, given the current pressure of the committee work load, we would be behind to some extent. As you appreciate, we concentrate on providing daily delivery for the House Hansard, and the committees take second priority to that. I think in any normal circumstances we would be somewhat behind at the moment. However, we did lose between two and three weeks as a consequence of our move, partly due to disruption, partly due to the fact the

premises were not really completed when we moved in. Not everybody had a desk. Not everybody could hook into the computer. There were still people working around, finishing up various jobs, drilling and those things.

Once we did get rolling, we had some rather bad power cuts that caused a couple of computer crashes. The net result was a delay of at least two weeks in committee delivery. We have never really caught up again. We caught up to the extent that we are five to seven days behind now, and that is fairly normal. We generally carry between one and two weeks' delivery into the recess. That is not really an acceptable state of affairs. We are attempting to get more space so that we can locate more terminals and hire more staff to get things back on track. Certainly the move did contribute, very largely initially, to the delay.

Mr. Warner: Do you require more staff?

Mr. Brannan: Certainly we do if we are going to improve our delivery.

Mr. Warner: You have been allocated quite a minimal increase in your budget. Is that increase sufficient?

Mr. Brannan: That does not really reflect the staff increases we have requested. We have put in an application for more staff and more space. The understanding was that once the staff were hired, we would get the supplementary estimates to cover the cost of their salaries. We cannot predict at the moment exactly what this is going to cost us. The staff we are hiring currently are being hired on contract, simply until we find our feet and discover how many people we need once things settle down again.

Mr. Warner: It is your understanding that later on a supplementary estimate will satisfy your budgetary request in order to have more staff.

Mr. Brannan: That is right.

Mr. Warner: Is there—I do not know the correct phraseology—an electronic component to the Hansard being considered for the chamber?

Mr. Brannan: The sound system in the chamber is scheduled for renewal, provided there is enough time during the recess. In addition to the television installation, a new sound system is being designed and will be installed if time permits. It is all part of the upgrading of the system to provide broadcast quality.

The electronic aspect will be out of my control in the not-too-distant future because, now that we have an electronic video Hansard, my electronic staff are being involved in its maintenance and

general operational process. It seemed to make better management and operational sense to put them under the control of electronic video Hansard. That will actually take effect at the beginning of next month. I shall not have that responsibility. We will retain the same services and the same assistance and maintenance as we have in the past from those individuals, but they will not be directly under my control.

Mr. Warner: I believe we have agreed to simultaneous translation. We have not reached the formal stage of the passage of money and so on, but it is going to happen. Is Hansard making necessary preparations so that printed Hansard will be in both official languages?

Mr. Brannan: Not at this stage, no. That is not really linked to simultaneous interpretation. I believe the committee did look at it and consider it, but it is not part of the plan at this time.

Mr. Warner: I see.

Mr. Brannan: We are establishing increased French-language capability, because I think simultaneous interpretation will lead to more use of the French language. We are gearing up for that.

Mr. Warner: Very good. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman: Are there other questions for Mr. Brannan? Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: I mentioned something about simultaneous translation. An amount of \$591,000 is set aside in the budget in anticipation of simultaneous translation, so money is there.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Warner, you had one other item.

Mr. Warner: Yes. Is someone here from the legislative library? Terrific. There are a couple of basic things I am interested in. You have had a fairly modest budget increase as well. Is that increase sufficient to meet your staffing requirements in order to meet the needs of the members?

Mrs. Dickerson: It is for the present time. The staff is working hard but, typically, the library waited until it knew there was a sustained need, and climbing statistics. Then it went to the Board of Internal Economy for additional staff.

As with Hansard, we have usually gone the contract route initially. Then, if the work load has been sustained, we have requested that those positions be converted to regular positions. Staff members are working very hard at present, but we are all right for now.

Mr. Warner: Could you trace for me, technically, how the library is able to obtain information for me as a member from jurisdic-

tions outside Ontario? Do you have a computer operation or some kind of electronic hookup that would quickly retrieve information from, say, a parliamentary library in England or elsewhere?

Mrs. Dickerson: No. We try to collect as much printed material as we can on parliamentary systems, specifically in the Commonwealth countries and the United States. We have a lot of printed material on hand. There are some commercial database systems that contain information we would retrieve.

Depending on the topic, the best way to do it is often to call the other jurisdictions. We often do that on specific questions. That is really limited to Canada and the United States. If you could give me some indication of the kind of information you are talking about, I could be more specific.

Mr. Warner: For example, let us suppose I was putting together a bill on the complaints against police procedure and I was interested in obtaining whatever relevant information there was on legislation from California, where they have some legislation. How would you obtain that, and how quickly?

Mrs. Dickerson: California happens to be one of the states for which we have not only the statutes but also the state code. We have that in printed form in the library. We also have two commercial database systems which have legal and statutory materials in them, so we would access it through those.

Mr. Warner: When the members receive the Datapoint system in their offices, will there be a computer hookup with the library?

Mrs. Dickerson: We currently have a Datapoint terminal in the library. We are anticipating that the major application will be electronic mail. We will be able to tell members through electronic mail that material is ready for them. Members can send requests to us in that way. We are hoping we will be able to link the Geac system we use for our catalogue to the Datapoint system, but that is further down the line.

Searching commercial databases will not be done through the Datapoint system. We use an IBM Personal Computer for that. Thus, if we were trying to give you information that was contained in the database, we would have to input it into the Datapoint system in order to get it to you that way.

5:30 p.m.

Mr. Warner: What I am thinking of is that at some point our constituency offices will be supplied with computer equipment. Will it be

possible at that stage, if it is a compatible system, for the constituency offices to make use of the terminal in your library?

Mrs. Dickerson: They will be able to message to us with requests and we will be able to message back to them. We will not be able to transmit entire documents. For instance, members can now pick up a photocopy we have made of an article. Other than actually inputting the article to the Datapoint system, there will be no mechanism to get it to the constituency office.

Mr. Warner: I do not want to put you on the spot, but if you could make a casual observation, do you think all the members of the assembly are sufficiently aware of the services available in the legislative library?

Mrs. Dickerson: No. We have a large collection and good facilities but unless you need to use them it is hard to remember that they exist. At the pace members have to move, they often neglect it. We have an excellent orientation film which I know you have seen and we have addressed orientation sessions to the members' assistants, caucus research staff and members' research assistants. That was quite successful. If the members are not aware of the services, their staff are.

Mr. Warner: I appreciate that. On reflection, although I had been elected previously, I attended the orientation to see if there were things I had missed over the four years. It struck me that it might be of creative benefit if the orientation was spread out over a number of months rather than concentrated in a couple of days. Everything was given at once. If my only introduction to the library, which is extremely important to my work, was in the first couple of days when everything is new, it would not be as helpful as a month or two after I arrived. That is something to consider.

Mrs. Dickerson: Since we addressed the members' staff, we have been considering offering an opportunity for members to come in themselves this summer. It is often difficult for members to find time during the session.

Mr. Warner: It would be worth it. The chairman will recall that I introduced Bill 3, the Seniors' Independence Act, on which Mr. Bob Gardner did the research for me. The research was absolutely first-rate. It was the kind of precise detail I was looking for and it was exhaustive; it really covered the waterfront. That made my job as a legislator a lot easier because it was easy to move from that document to the legislation I wanted. The same was true when I

did the complaints against police bill. The resource is there and members are crazy if they do not use it.

Mrs. Dickerson: I am delighted to hear that.

Mr. Newman: Do you carry border city newspapers: Buffalo, all border cities on the Great Lakes?

Mrs. Dickerson: Buffalo, Detroit—

Mr. Newman: What papers in Detroit?

Mrs. Dickerson: The Detroit News.

Mr. Newman: You do not carry the Free Press.

Mrs. Dickerson: You have caught me. I am not sure whether we have the Free Press or the News.

Mr. Newman: For news it far superior.

Mrs. Dickerson: I believe we get the Buffalo News and the Detroit Free Press.

Mr. Newman: If you carry the Detroit Free Press, you have the better Detroit newspaper. Are you prepared to provide us with information concerning the newspapers? That may be information dealing with various legislatures because, living in a border town, when I read about our American friends I find they are years ahead in much of their information.

Mrs. Dickerson: Are you suggesting we do that through the press clipping service, that we add those papers?

Mr. Newman: I do not know how you do it at all. I clip them myself.

Mrs. Dickerson: Right now we are clipping 20 newspapers through the press clipping service. We are frequently asked if we could clip additional papers. It is just a case of what we can do with the staff load. There is certainly no reason why we cannot look at it and see whether the volume of clippings in it would be of use to enough members to warrant us including them.

Mr. Wiseman: In Florida, the legislature has passed a couple of bills that are different; they are first in the US. We are faced with a similar problem. Can the legislative library do some research on that for us, or do we have to do that ourselves?

Mrs. Dickerson: Oh, no, by all means. We do that sort of thing virtually every day. It is useful if you can tell us that you know Florida has a particular type of legislation, but we are often asked if any states or any provinces have legislation on a particular issue—lemon laws or something of that sort. We go ahead and pursue a

search on that. We will obtain the statutes for you or any documentation we can.

Mr. Chairman: Do you have anything else that you want to ask?

Mr. Warner: I do not know where Mr. Speaker has hidden them, but I wonder if he would return the coffee cups to the west lobby. Other than that, I have no other comment.

Mr. Chairman: Oh, oh. You have been slammed every way now.

Mr. Mancini: Actually, now that he has brought that up—

Mr. Chairman: I knew you would stir to life.

Mr. Mancini: Now that Mr. Warner has brought that up, it seems—

Mr. Chairman: It seems unparliamentary, would you not say?

Mr. Mancini: The Speaker is a personal friend of mine. I have to be careful what I say. Anyway, we do have cups in the committee here. Personally, I do not like drinking my coffee out of chemicals, which is what styrofoam is made of, a number of chemicals—

Mr. Wiseman: We know you are living too high.

Mr. Chairman: The complaint has been received.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, you will recall that one of your predecessors eliminated coffee cups, juice, etc., from the Legislature. In return, he offered an alternative service to the members. Frankly, it is a minor annoyance. I will just leave that with you. I know you have many other important things to deal with.

Mr. Speaker: The members will remember, I am sure, that a number of years ago members went into the Legislature with styrofoam cups. At that time, the Speaker said, "We had better supply coffee out in the lobbies to make it look a little better in the House," so that they would not be drinking coffee. At that time, they seemed to be quite happy with styrofoam cups. This matter has been brought up twice in the House and it has been brought up about three times by note to the Speaker.

Mr. Warner: I keep sending notes.

Mr. Speaker: I am getting the message. As I told the members previously—

Mr. Warner: Imagine being impeached over coffee cups.

Mr. Speaker: —I believe in restraint. Of course, the last time it was brought up it was

suggested that perhaps I was not concerned about domestic waste.

Mr. Warner: Or nonrenewable resources.

Mr. Speaker: As a cost-saving effort—as you recall we used to have two or three night sittings—I figured we would save so much per sitting. I suppose I could take another look at it now that we do not have any night sittings and the overall cost is reduced because of the reduced number of sittings. I will certainly take a good look at that.

Mr. Warner: It is certainly better than being impeached.

Mr. Wiseman: I agree with Remo. It is better to take it in a fat cup than in the plastic version.

5:40 p.m.

Under information services—and I think I know the answer—is the jump of almost \$15 million for the computers we all got as members? I was reading on further and I could not find a breakdown of what the computers actually cost. Do we have salary and wages in there? I would like to know how many people we have on staff to look after that area. Will that \$821,000, or almost one million dollars, be an ongoing expense when you add in the fringe benefits?

There is another question. We as legislators, as well as our legislative assistants, want to have a reasonable knowledge in understanding and maybe working the computer. Has there been some consideration given to providing classes for those who want that sort of training. We will not become fully knowledgeable, but at least we will know how to get into the machine and take off some of the information that is there, perhaps when our gals have gone for the day. If there is not money built in for teaching or assisting us, then it should be looked at seriously. If there is enough interest, can that be done?

Otherwise, we will not fully realize as much as we could out of this large expenditure. I, for one, would like to take some training to be able to access the machine and take off some of the information. We all know we put in many more hours than our legislative assistants and sometimes we may want to access the computer for the answers to certain constituency problems or whatever problem it might be.

Mr. Speaker: In my opening comments, I broke down what some of the expenses were.

Mr. Wiseman: I am sorry. I missed that.

Mr. Speaker: As far as the training and some of the other questions are concerned, I have asked Tom Mitchinson, director of information services, to make some comments here.

Mr. Mitchinson: Just briefly, to reply to Mr. Wiseman's initial comment, the amount of money under the information services item includes three basic categories of expenses relating to the electronic Hansard installation, the parliamentary public relations office and information systems, which is the automated system for the members' offices. It is just one element of that.

Specifically, with regard to the training for the members, when the estimates of the assembly were approved, there was approval for a contract training position to be added to our permanent staff of two full-time trainers in the education and information centre. The reason for that was we were being pressed quite firmly by the caucuses to speed up our training program. We have been giving top priority to training one staff person from each member's office as the product was introduced into the office and then bringing the second staff member in that office on, down the road.

We hold orientation sessions with each member personally at the time the product is introduced. We have been hearing a lot of comments about the interest on the part of members, such as yourself, who would like to have not a comprehensive understanding of the equipment, but a basic understanding of the equipment so that they could turn out some work if necessary. Now that we have our third person on board, we are going to three session training modules per day, instead of two, and we are going into the early evening hours to train more people quickly.

One of the things Don Bentley and his staff are developing is a training package for the member personally. It will be a very basic introductory package that a member can come down and work on individually or in a small group with the training staff to get a basic understanding.

Mr. Wiseman: A lot more terminals will perhaps be in by fall. Now that we close at 6:30 p.m., I would throw out the suggestion that a couple of hours on a couple of nights a week during the winter would be a time some of us who come from out of town might as well be trying to learn a little about how the system works. Two nights a week or one night a week—I think two nights a week would keep it fresher in our minds—for so many weeks would be a good idea, if we can arrange it, so that we can make as much use of these machines as we possibly can.

I take it from what you said, Mr. Mitchinson, the three people on staff will be taken up for the

most part in teaching our legislative assistants and so on, rather than one of them assisting us.

Mr. Mitchinson: There is enough flexibility in the schedules. We have to schedule a certain length of time ahead so that offices have a little notice of when the training is to take place and are not necessarily disrupted. With the three training people and the manager himself, I am sure we have enough staff to accommodate the requests of members.

We will take your comment under advisement, see what we come up with in discussions with other members and then see what we can do to address them. I certainly agree with you. It is important that as much use of the automation equipment is made as we possibly can.

Mr. Wiseman: I think I missed the breakdown. There were three major components, the terminals being one. I did not catch what the other two are.

Mr. Mitchinson: The parliamentary public relations office under Linda Phillips and the new electronic Hansard broadcast unit.

Mr. Wiseman: Is the information branch for translation and so on a duplication of what Government Services has provided us with in the past?

Mr. Mitchinson: We do not do translation.

Mr. Wiseman: Oh, I am sorry. I read it wrong. That is transportation and communications.

You mentioned the young lady who heads up the office.

Mr. Speaker: Parliamentary public relations, tour guides and that sort of thing.

Mr. Wiseman: That is how much altogether?

Mr. Mitchinson: The budget is \$569,300.

Mr. Wiseman: That is small enough. I have eliminated some things from here, such as members' salaries and support services for members, constituency support services. If you took those out, how many more staff, Mr. Speaker, have you added with this large increase in budget? Most of it is for computer terminals and so on, but this is a time when we are watching the numbers of our staff around us. I know we all have one more person to help us with our work. How many have you added under your jurisdiction?

Mr. Speaker: As I said in my opening comments, we are up by close to 375 people in total.

Mr. Wiseman: What were you in other years?

Mr. Speaker: Was it 700 and some last year? What was the staff last year?

5:50 p.m.

Mr. Waters: Not counting of those in the constituency offices, members and caucus, as of March 1985, there were 274 persons on payroll. In March 1986, there were 286 persons on payroll. That takes in the administration, Hansard and the library.

Mr. Wiseman: Someone mentioned earlier today that they were using a lot of contract employees. Would that take in the contract employees as well?

Mr. Waters: Provided they were not being paid by invoice or through Go Temp, in short, were not on payroll.

Mr. Wiseman: I would like to ask you the question that was always asked of us when I was a minister. Do you have Go Temp employees who are almost steady, or do you have contract employees who are almost steady, who do not show up in that number? I take it from the smile that there are.

Mr. Speaker: I should perhaps ask Karin Scotland. I know there are in a few areas; I am not certain how many.

Ms. Scotland: Whoever was on the payroll is registered and is paid by the Legislative Assembly; so Mr. Waters' figures are fairly correct. We order Go Temporary staff sometimes when people are on vacation. They are usually just there for two or three weeks, whatever the case may be. Other than that, there would not be anybody in the assembly paid other than on the payroll. These figures are, therefore, correct.

Mr. Wiseman: These are all full-time people. What we do not know is the part-time or the contract employees.

Ms. Scotland: No, that includes everybody.

Mr. Wiseman: If someone comes in for two weeks, is he or she counted as one person?

Ms. Scotland: These people are paid by Go Temp. They are very rare. As I said, when somebody goes on vacation we need a replacement. The count under payroll includes any kind of contract, be it part time, be it full time, be it sessional for Hansard, they are all there on the payroll. The staffing increase in the administration has been small.

Mr. Wiseman: To clarify again for me, everyone who works a month or two months is counted in what this gentlemen gave me, under the 274?

Ms. Scotland: I would say so, yes.

Mr. Wiseman: May I have those figures again?

Mr. Waters: March 1985, 274; March 1986, 286.

Mr. Mancini: The difference is 12.

Mr. Wiseman: Did you follow it? The numbers are only different by 12. I thought, as we went through some of those, there were additional staff—

Mr. Speaker: There is nothing in those figures connected to caucuses or members.

Mr. Warner: Look at the budget. If you take out the \$14 million, etc., for the computers, there is hardly any increase at all. We have had people in the computer end, have we not? Mr. Mitchinson was just telling us that we had three alone and perhaps more, but there are three people teaching the computer system plus a few more in there setting it up and so on. We see the library with an increase; it is up for more staff.

Mr. Mitchinson: In the information systems unit, for your information, there is a total of four full-time employees and one contract employee at present. All, including the contract one, would be part of this figure.

Mr. Wiseman: I do not want to damn them all, but there are five new ones right there. The library has an increase of \$300,000 or so and the Speaker's office itself is going up by \$316,000. Are there any additional staff in your office, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: There are no additional staff. As I stated earlier, most of that is for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association conference in July, plus l'Association internationale des parlementaires de langue française installation ceremony some time in the fall.

Mr. Wiseman: The reason I asked is that I seem to see more and more offices having to do with the Legislature around here than I have in the past. I walked over to Whitney Block the other day to see all the offices expanding over there. They seem to be expanding down at the Hydro building as well. I thought perhaps we were expanding at a greater rate than 12 people. I know it is taking up more space around here than it once did for Legislative Assembly people.

Mr. Warner: I have one observation. If you take out the computers, the increase in the budget is approximately one per cent. I have a question regarding the item that says, "Contributions to Legislative Assembly retirement allowance ac-

count," the Legislative Assembly Retirement Allowances Act.

Mr. Wiseman: David, may I correct you on that? When you look at some of the expenses that will not be recurring, which actually come off that \$2.5 million for the Commission on Election Contributions and Expenses, it comes to a lot more than one per cent. I did not want to leave it in Hansard that we were spending only one per cent this year. Look at the ones with the little brackets around them.

Mr. Chairman: I never rely on Mr. Warner for numbers anyway.

Mr. Warner: Whose responsibility is that? To whom should I ask my question?

Mr. Chairman: You have to give us a clue as to what the question is, first.

Mr. Warner: All right. The question is related to the retirement allowance. First, I am wondering if there is some body or individual reviewing the retirement allowance being paid to past members of the assembly; people who are not here now, are not elected. Second, how is the annual adjustment made to that pension for members who retired 20 years ago? Who takes a look at their pensions and makes what I assume is the annual adjustment?

Mr. Speaker: An outside body reviews it each year. I have forgotten its name.

Mr. Fleming: It is Johnson and Higgins Willis Faber Ltd. Every year, the Board of Internal Economy retains that firm to examine former members' pensions and/or those of their spouses. Based on the report submitted by that company, the board then determines the adjustment it should make annually.

Mr. Warner: Is there a regular annual adjustment, a cost-of-living adjustment or whatever?

Mr. Fleming: There has been for the last number of years. There was one this year, retroactive to January 1.

Mr. Warner: Is there a statutory requirement to make the adjustment?

Mr. Fleming: No.

Mr. Warner: The Board of Internal Economy has the power not to make any adjustments. Is that correct?

Mr. Fleming: Yes.

Mr. Warner: Is the board required to examine the allowance every year?

Mr. Fleming: No; it has really become a tradition.

6 p.m.

Mr. Warner: It has become a practice but it is not tied down. Would it be appropriate for our committee to take a look at that some time? There should actually be a procedure rather than an ad hoc practice, and maybe there should be some statutory requirement under the Legislative Assembly Act.

I remember looking at some figures a number of years ago which indicated that someone who had been a member here for 20 years—I am trying to remember the gentleman's name—received an extremely low pension. That was primarily because, although he was a government member, he had never been in cabinet. I was astounded at the low figure this person was receiving after 20 years of service. What you are telling me is that there has been a regular practice—

Mr. Fleming: There has been a regular practice that involves all former members and there has been a very substantial increase in certain specific members. I would not want to name them publicly. The information concerning the specific amounts of pension which members or their spouses receive is a matter of public knowledge which can be made available to members if they request that information from either the Speaker or myself.

Mr. Warner: Does the board have the ability to adjust certain members' pensions and not others, or is it reviewing all individuals who have retired?

Mr. Fleming: It is reviewing all individuals who retire. There has never been any ad hoc decision made with regard to any specific former member.

Mr. Warner: Whatever increases have been determined—I assume it is a percentage increase—is applied across the board. Is that correct?

Mr. Fleming: Right. Yes.

Mr. Warner: The only flaw in this is that it is not regularized in any regulation or policy manual, nor is it a statutory requirement.

Mr. Fleming: There was an occasion when it was referred to the Commission on Election Contributions and Expenses and at that time the chairman was Arthur Wishart. After some consideration, he declined to take it on, feeling that he had a conflict of interest since he was a former member of the Legislature. It was then referred back to the Board of Internal Economy.

There was great concern on the part of the board that there be fairness and equity for former members. On that basis, it felt the board should take it on. I think it felt that in order to do this at

arm's length, it should retain the services of an outside firm which would have a great deal of access to knowledge about other provincial governments, the private sector, etc.

Mr. Warner: To your knowledge, has the board adopted the recommendation from this outside firm each year?

Mr. Fleming: I would have to call on the support of Mr. Mitchinson, who was my executive assistant, to confirm this, but I personally cannot think of any instance when it did not accept the recommendation, although perhaps Mr. Speaker wishes Mr. Mitchinson to comment.

Mr. Speaker: Can you confirm that?

Mr. Mitchinson: Yes. In the past five or six years it has been an annual adjustment. About six years ago, there was a more elaborate study undertaken by that firm to make up for years where there had not been an annual adjustment. I do not believe the board has ever not accepted a recommendation of the actuary.

Mr. Warner: What is the name of the company?

Mr. Fleming: It is Johnson and Higgins Willis Faber Ltd.

Mr. Warner: You are not suggesting by what you told me now that this company, which I assume has great credentials, is somehow more accurate in its work than the Commission on Election Contributions and Expenses. The board accepts its report every year but it does not accept the report of the commission on the members' salaries.

Mr. Fleming: Unfortunately, it is the Speaker who is simply acting as the conduit for the recommendations for their salaries, whereas in this particular case the pensions are being specifically considered by the Board of Internal Economy.

Mr. Warner: I see.

Mr. Mitchinson: The adjustment provisions for the members' pensions are contained in the section of the Legislative Assembly Retirement Allowances Act which give the authority to the Speaker to make adjustments subject to the board's approval. It is a statutory authority that decides.

Mr. Warner: In the Legislative Assembly Act?

Mr. Mitchinson: No, the Legislative Assembly Retirement Allowances Act.

Mr. Warner: It gives the authority to the Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: It is subject to the Board of Internal Economy.

Mr. Warner: Right. But it says, "may," so there is no obligation to make an annual adjustment. That might be something for our committee to take a look at.

On item 6, constituency offices:

Mr. Bossy: I was not around here in 1984-85, but I see \$4,332,109. Then the estimates for 1985-86 drop to \$1,762,800. Now the estimates for 1986-87 are \$2,586,800. These figures are hard to understand. Where are these derived from?

As I understand, back in 1984-85 the constituency office service was apparently minimal to members. Here we have a real increase in that we are trying to provide constituency offices with better facilities, equipment and everything else. Yet it is still only half of what it cost back in 1984-85.

Mr. Waters: During 1984-85, the \$4 million that you are looking at was inclusive of the salary and operating costs of the offices. When the 1985-86 estimates were struck, the salary application in the offices was included as part of the members' global staff allowance and became part of the \$12 million members' support services. This is why it went down, because of a transfer of the salary and benefit component from one vote and item to the other vote and item. The actual operating costs went up by an inflation factor of, I believe, four per cent, or whatever it was in that period.

Mr. Bossy: It has just been juggled, in other words.

Mr. Waters: Yes. The actual salary component went up markedly but it was treated separately as the members' staff global budget.

Mr. Bossy: Where would we find that; under what heading?

Mr. Waters: Item 5, members' support services.

On item 4, members' indemnities:

Mr. Bossy: I think it could be highlighted here because there is a large figure in brackets going back to 1984-85. I am not going to read the figures; you can read them in here. Then to 1985-86, here it looks as though we are going to take a real cut in pay. What causes this to happen?

Mr. Waters: I am not sure, but I believe 32 members were subject to severance allowance after the last election. This is essentially the reason for that decrease. It was a one-time expenditure.

Mr. Bossy: In other words, the difference we see was really mostly a severance allowance from the last election. Is there anywhere in the estimates where the difference in the size is reflected? Can this become the difference in the size of the cabinet, or whatever it might be? Is that not relevant?

Mr. Waters: No. The actual severance allowance decrease was \$1,081,300. It is, in essence, the amount.

On item 10, information services:

Mr. Bossy: My other question was asked earlier. It regards questions that are being asked from the constituency level concerning the expenditures we are about to make—in the estimates here it is an additional \$14 million—for the electronic system we are putting in.

It is the perception of the public that we are spending \$14 million for television. This is the thing I worried about. I think other members were also concerned that the overall expenditure, as far as the work that is being done to the building is concerned, really is not related to televising the procedures in the House. I understand one thing leads to another, but we are renovating and it is charged in that area.

Mr. Waters: Building renovations?

Mr. Bossy: This \$14 million that we are looking at.

Mr. Chairman: The Speaker gave a good breakdown of that in his opening remarks. I refer you to the first and second pages, where he made a valiant effort to sort out what was what.

Mr. Speaker: There is nothing in these estimates for the reconstruction of the chamber. Putting the new electronic Hansard system in is included, but the Ministry of Government Services pays for the reconstruction of the floors of the chamber, moving the seats and that sort of thing.

Mr. Bossy: There is nothing in these figures here? What figure are we looking at for the reconstruction, putting a new floor in? I do not know whether that is relevant to these estimates.

Mr. Chairman: It is not.

Mr. Mitchinson: The Ministry of Government Services will be undertaking all the construction costs in the chamber. When they were determining the breakdown, they felt that the projects dovetailed to such an extent it was unrealistic to totally isolate one from another. The agreement reached with them was that the construction costs would be X amount, 60 per cent of which would be attributable to the installation of the electronic Hansard and 40 per

cent for costs unrelated to broadcast. They are recovering 60 per cent from us and that is the figure Mr. Speaker referred to in his budget. The rest of the cost would be within the Ministry of Government Services' budget.

Mr. Bossy: Thank you.

Mr. Chairman: Are there any other questions from the members?

Mr. Speaker: In a lighter vein, the members might be interested to know that Government Services is considering a computer floor for the chamber, so I have tried to suggest that they put a panel in front of the Speaker and trapdoors under each member.

Mr. Chairman: If there are no further

questions, are the members prepared to deal with this vote?

Vote 3501 agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: This completes consideration of the estimates of the Office of the Assembly.

Thank you very much for attending today. We have done our duty.

Mr. Speaker: I would like to thank you very much for your kind words to the Speaker and the staff of the Office of the Assembly. I hope we have been able to answer your questions. If you have further questions at any time, I am sure the staff would be willing to answer them.

The committee adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

CONTENTS

Wednesday, June 18, 1986

Office of the Assembly program	M-3
Adjournment	M-23

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

Bossy, M. L. (Chatham-Kent L)
 Breaugh, M. J., Chairman (Oshawa NDP)
 Johnson, J. M. (Wellington-Dufferin-Peel PC)
 Mancini, R., Vice-Chairman (Essex South L)
 Newman, B. (Windsor-Walkerville L)
 Treleaven, R. L., Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Oxford PC)
 Warner, D. W. (Scarborough-Ellesmere NDP)
 Wiseman, D. J. (Lanark PC)

Witnesses:

From the Office of the Assembly:

Edighoffer, Hon. H. A., Speaker (Perth L)
 MacDonald, C. D., Chairman, Commission on Election Contributions and Expenses
 Joynt, D. A., Executive Director, Commission on Election Contributions and Expenses
 Waters, L. E., Director of Finance
 Brannan, P. A., Editor of Debates, Hansard Reporting Service
 Dickerson, M. E., Head, Information and Reference Service
 Mitchinson, T., Director, Information Services Branch
 Scotland, K. C., Assistant to the Director of Human Resources
 Fleming, R. J., Director of Administration



Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Standing Committee on the Legislative Assembly
Estimates, Office of the Chief Election Officer

Second Session, 33rd Parliament
Wednesday, December 10, 1986

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: C. L. DesRosiers

CONTENTS

Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of the speakers taking part.

Reference to a cumulative index of previous issues can be obtained by calling the Hansard Reporting Service indexing staff at (416) 965-2159.

Hansard subscription price is \$16.00 per session, from: Sessional Subscription Service, Information Services Branch, Ministry of Government Services, 5th Floor, 880 Bay Street, Toronto, M7A 1N8. Phone (416) 965-2238.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, December 10, 1986

The committee met at 3:49 p.m. in room 228.

After other business:

15:52

ESTIMATES, OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

On vote 3601, Office of the Chief Election Officer:

Mr. Chairman: The next order of business will be the estimates for the office of the chief election officer. We have Mr. Goodwin and Mr. Bailie with us. I do appreciate you had very short notice. We knew last night at six o'clock what the agenda for today would be, and I am told you knew about 6:15. We do have two hours of estimates time. Since a rather limited number of votes can be taken on this, I suggest we simply entertain discussion until you have had your questions answered or you have said what you wanted to say. We will consider that to be two hours of estimates time and adjourn. I will put one motion.

Mr. Dean: If I may, I do not think I have a copy of the estimates.

Mr. Chairman: We have some extras here. They anticipated this might happen.

Mr. Dean: One of our colleague's, Mr. McFadden, would like an opportunity to come in and ask a question.

Mr. Chairman: He has until we are finished.

Mr. Dean: I will make sure he knows we are going to go until we finish.

Mr. Chairman: Do you have any kind of opening statement you wanted to make?

Mr. Bailie: For those of you who have not met me, and I am not sure I have met Mr. Warner, I am Warren Bailie, the chief election officer. On my right is Miss Wells, the chief election clerk. On my left is Jim Goodwin, the chief financial officer. The financial officer, Mrs. Tam, is on his left.

Mr. Chairman: That is one of the most succinct opening statements I have ever heard. Are there any questions from members on any matters?

Mr. Warner: You are the folks who make the recommendations with respect to members' salaries?

Mr. Bailie: No. I am a member of the commission that makes recommendations on members' salaries, but I was not actually on the subcommittee. It is not handled by the chief election officer but by the Commission on Election Finances. It does not come through my office as election officer.

Mr. Warner: You participate?

Mr. Bailie: I participate.

Mr. Warner: Do those folks come before us later?

Mr. Chairman: No.

Mr. Turner: Do you have a question?

Mr. Turner: I do not have a question, Mr. Chairman. I was just wondering whether Mr. Bailie in a very brief and concise manner can run through the responsibilities of the election office and explain to all the members what he is responsible for in the overall duties and responsibilities of the office.

Mr. Bailie: I would be glad to do that. We do have something prepared on the general duties and responsibilities. The present chief election officer was appointed by resolution of the assembly in April 1982. The incumbent ranks as a deputy head of a department and communicates with the Lieutenant Governor in Council through the government House leader.

The chief election officer must exercise general direction and supervision over the administrative conduct of elections and enforce on the part of the election officers fairness, impartiality and compliance with the provisions of the Election Act. He must issue instructions to election officers to ensure the effect of the execution of the provisions of the act; provide election officers with sufficient election material and supplies for the efficient conduct of the election; ensure the preparation of all documents pertaining to the return of a member to the Legislative Assembly and of reports on these elections; maintain a registry of political parties; and certify the number of names on the list of electors as well as the number of ballot votes cast in each electoral district for the purpose of calculating the election expenses limit and the amount of reimbursement to which candidates and registered parties are allowed under the Election Finances Reform Act.

That item is a brand new one resulting in the past few months since the changes to the Election Finances Reform Act. By virtue of his statutory appointment as a member of the Commission on Election Finances, the chief election officer must ensure that all provisions of the Election Finances Reform Act are complied with, execute and perform all the powers and duties which the Election Act imposes upon him.

Following a general election period, about 12 months are necessary to compile the final record and to pay our accounts. A period of at least one year is also necessary to order, receive and assemble the material and supplies required to conduct the next general election. During the following year, we proceed to review the books of instructions and manuals we use. We revise, re-edit and then conduct courses of instruction for returning officers in preparation for the coming election.

In addition, the chief election officer is expected to provide advice and assistance to the Cabinet Office, caucus offices, committees of the Legislature, members and their constituency offices as well as other government departments and members of the public. Those are the main duties. There are some minor ones I may not have mentioned.

Mr. Bossy: In the event of another election being called, when the writ comes down we are under new boundaries. As far as the work that has transpired in the redistribution is concerned, the cost was taken into account in the previous estimates. I am sure you had extra costs during that time.

Mr. Bailie: The cost of the redistribution itself was borne by a separate committee and it was a separate vote. There were additional costs in our office which are just really coming up now, as we do a redistribution of polling subdivision boundaries resulting from the changes. The cost is in our estimates to the extent that we could put it in there, but basically speaking, what you have before you are the estimates for the permanent staff, salaries and fringe benefits. The cost that will come as a result of polling subdivision review and revision is actually paid for through the Election Act. It comes from accountable warrants.

16:00

Mr. Bossy: When you look at the 1984-85 estimates and the huge difference incurred because of an election having taken place during that fiscal year, that was not under a separate vote?

Mr. Bailie: No.

Mr. Bossy: In other words, if an election is held next year, this would be taken into 1986-87 estimates. Most of the estimate costs have already been incurred. Usually, we end up talking about a lot of these figures and they are already history or have been for quite some time. That is where that possibility arises. How do they arrive at that?

Mr. Bailie: If I may, I am going to ask the chief financial officer to respond to that question.

Mr. Goodwin: We pay for an election through statutory appropriations. It does not come in front of a committee as such under estimates. It comes under an accountable warrant, which is a statutory amount of money that we are allowed to draw from Treasury through an order in council to pay for the election expenses. That is all election expenses.

Everything you have in front of you, sir, the salary and wages, the fringe benefits and a note of statutory appropriations, has really no bearing on the estimates.

Mr. Bossy: Maybe I am confused here. There is a figure here that says, "Less: special warrant, \$200,000; total for office of the chief election officer, \$562,300." Those are the estimates for 1985-86 and then it says, "Less: special warrant, total to be voted \$362,300."

Mr. Goodwin: There was a general and necessary government expenditure on and after April 1, 1986: general and necessary expenditures of the Office of the Provincial Auditor, office of the chief election officer. This was put through the Management Board, March 26, 1986. We ran short of money and they did not have enough money to pay us.

Mr. Turner: That is a rather embarrassing situation.

Mr. Bossy: That is exactly what I feel the problem is concerning our salaries; they do not have enough to pay us.

Mr. Dean: Pay us what we are worth.

Mr. Bossy: Equal pay for work of equal value or whatever.

Mr. Chairman: Do you have any more questions, Mr. Bossy?

Mr. Bossy: Not right now.

Mr. Chairman: Anybody else?

Mr. Warner: You folks are in charge of how the election is run. Can you tell me whether or not every polling station in this province now has access for wheelchairs?

Mr. Bailie: No, I certainly cannot; that is just not the case. We have taken special efforts to try to improve that situation in the coming election. I am going to propose a special arrangement of the fee so that the returning officers—let us put it this way: in the past we have had a fee they were paid for selecting the polls. In order to get a little more control of that, I am proposing to the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) that we have a fee for preliminary selection of the polls, including an access report, which will then be sent to our office.

Because of the short time we have available—if you start selecting polls and checking their size and so forth, it is not that easy to do—we are going to try to do it in a preliminary sense. That will mean that if we do not guess right about when the election is coming, we may have to do some of that work over again; so there will be another fee for final selection and preparing the necessary poll agreements for payment.

We are doubling our efforts to try to see that more of these polls are accessible but I cannot assure you they all will be, because in the short election period we have we feel it is not possible.

Mr. Warner: I recognize that we are making progress. In my own riding in the last election every polling station was able to accommodate wheelchairs; they had put in ramps and so on.

The other change I have noticed over the last 10 years is that in my riding I do not think we have polling stations located in any private houses. They are all located in public buildings, other than in apartment building recreation rooms or whatever. Other than that, they use schools or churches. I assumed it was by direction that this move was made. Was it your intent not to use private homes wherever possible?

Mr. Bailie: Yes. The chief election officer for some years now has been advising returning officers that the polls must be accessible. It naturally follows that very few private homes fall into this category. The election office is very precise when it says this is the responsibility of the returning officer. To the extent that we train and influence them, we have really leaned on them in this direction.

There will be cases in the north where enumerators are out hitting the bricks. In about six or seven days of the short time we have available, if we get the minimum 37-day period, they are supposed to have the name and address of the polling site, so it is difficult to make that promise. As committed as we are to making all the polls accessible, we cannot make that promise.

Mr. Warner: I have another one. This one—

Mr. Martel: I have a question. I do not think it changed in the last act. In rural polls, I believe the voters' list is still in alphabetical order.

Mr. Bailie: We did slip in a few words that will give me a little more say, something to the effect of, "or as directed by the returning officer."

Mr. Martel: It is fine if one lives in the city. One takes a voters' list and goes down one street and up the next street. He knows every household he is talking to, but in a county poll that is out of the question.

With alphabetical order, it is impossible for people working for any political party to identify—if somebody says, "I am voting for you," the first thing you want to do is make a little note that they are voting for you, except the names are from A to Z. You say, "What is your name? You are voting for me; what is your name?"

As I have argued for the last 10 years around here, that should not be allowed. They all live on some concession road, some side road, it has a designation; it might be down in part of the rural area. I represent Red Deer Lake Road, which is off Chief Lake Road. It should not be by alphabetical order. There should be some identification so that when you come to a house on a road, whatever the name of that road is, they are in the order they appear on the street or road, as opposed to alphabetical order, which makes it absolutely impossible for those people working for any political party in a rural poll to work effectively, unless you know everybody in the poll.

I have urged for a number of years that it be changed. I do not think it is right and I do not think it is fair that it is done in certain communities. You do not even have to do it by town in a rural poll. If you have certain towns designated rural, even though they have street numbers and so on, frequently they still appear in alphabetical order. That is really for the birds.

16:10

If you can do it in the city of Toronto, it really might not be quite as precise as here with street numbers but I think it could be done a lot better and make the work of people who are working the election a lot easier.

Mr. Bailie: We will take a look at that. The wording of the act does present some problems because further down in that section we are required to send a notice of enumeration to every person on the list, so we must collect the mailing

address. In cases such as you are describing, we would then be required to give a location address as well as a mailing address.

Mr. Turner: It would be on the voters' list.

Mr. Bailie: Yes. You have it already.

Mr. Martel: Sure. I have never been able to understand why. I have some theories as to why it never changed, but I will not mention those today.

Mr. Turner: The enumerator would have to follow a similar system, obviously.

Mr. Bailie: Yes. We have to instruct the returning officers that this is the way the members of the House—from my point of view, I am elected by the House, so I have 125 bosses—would like to have it. The rewording of the act is such that I have a little more flexibility than I did before this one was passed in December, 1984. We did, as a result of queries such as yours, word it so that we had a little more flexibility. Therefore we could move to that. The difficulty is to list on the available form, in certain electoral districts, both a location address and a mailing address. We have had two.

Mr. Turner: That is right. But you could put a township road or county road or whatever as location identification, with the rural route number.

Mr. Bailie: We put that somewhere on the list. We will keep that in mind.

Mr. Turner: That would be very handy.

Mr. Dean: I have a comment on the issue raised by the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel). I recognize this is a problem and I have seen it in rural parts of my own riding. I am also amazed at how the people who live in those areas, who have been working those polls for some time, not only know where everybody lives but also know before they go how they are going to vote, generally speaking.

I do not profess any such omniscience, however, perhaps it is not quite as big a problem among some workers as you might think.

Mr. Martel: When you get 60 per cent of the vote it is not bad. I always had trouble finding out who the 40 per cent are.

Mr. Chairman: That is what he is trying to establish.

Mr. Dean: He has 40 per cent of the population that he is really taking a run at.

Mr. Martel: This is not vindictive, is it?

Mr. Chairman: No, no; I was just going to deny them certain benefits.

Mr. Dean: Such as cutting their water off or something.

I have a different type of question. Has there been any general difficulty in recruiting enumerators and district returning officers and clerks and so on? Was it different in the last election than at other times?

Mr. Bailie: Yes, definitely. The difficulty occurs when the parties do not accept their responsibility to see that we get a complete list of an enumerator for each poll who is familiar with the poll, ideally lives in it, is prepared to enumerate and to do a conscientious job, and has the time available to do it. We are supposed to be supplied with a list such as that from each of the parties. We do not get that.

Therefore, number one, we start off with a very short list. Sometimes we do not find out we are not going to get a complete list until very late in the time frame and we have to do some scrambling to find some names.

Then, when we do contact these people to qualify them and make sure they understand what is required of them and so forth, they will ask, "How much a day am I going to get paid?" or "How much a week?" We just do not seem to have those conscientious people we used to have. With a large number of these enumerators, in earlier years when I was a returning officer, we did not have this problem. A lot of those women who used to do it in those days are out running businesses now, employing people. With those who are left, in the short time we have to qualify and train them and get them off to the job, we are not getting the enumeration we did in earlier years.

Mr. Dean: What kind of steps can be taken to make sure it comes out right? I am a little surprised to hear the parties are not providing you with a list. Would they not welcome this opportunity?

Mr. Bailie: Parties seem to welcome the opportunity and be reluctant to let go of it. A few years ago, when we were revising the act, I proposed they give us the authority to pick the enumerators. If they had names, fine, we would accept them. In one of the Metro ridings, instead of getting a list of 409 names, we got 39, 10 of whom had no interest in or intention of enumerating. There is an example.

Mr. Dean: That leaves you scrambling.

Mr. Bailie: Scrambling at the last moment.

Mr. Turner: What do you do in a case like that?

Mr. Bailie: In the first place, returning officers know from experience that they cannot always depend on the party, so when people call in and say, "I would like to be an enumerator," I have to point out to them that the law says we must accept the nominations from the party.

However, we suggest they call the parties and get on their list. We often make a note of their names, as well. If their names do not show up at least we have it. We have the previous lists. Mr. Goodwin's system of paying enumerators is done by computer, so he has a computer list and he supplies it.

They have the old list from the previous election, complete with telephone numbers in case they need them. As I say, when I was a returning officer, I would get a complete list from the Liberals, a complete list from the Conservatives, even from the New Democratic Party, although it did not have the right to nominate, and each one on this list would have a few extra names. There would be very few who could not be relied on, but it is not like that nowadays.

Mr. Dean: I asked because I know there was a minor difficulty in my own riding last time. I wondered if we were exceptional or whether you had it all over.

Mr. Bailie: It is a common problem.

Mr. Dean: In a slightly different tone, in the returns from the latest general election, how is that worked out? Do most of the ridings and the associations responsible within the ridings comply with your request of deadlines for returns?

Mr. Bailie: Returns?

Mr. Dean: Yes.

Mr. Bailie: That is the commission.

Mr. Dean: Sorry. You are not in that one.

Mr. Bailie: I am involved in it, but that is another office.

Mr. Dean: That is not a suitable question for this time.

Mr. Bailie: We have had a very good response. As a matter of fact, at the last meeting we had to warn one past candidate that he could not be a candidate in the next election because he had failed to answer any of our letters. We have now put him on that list. He cannot be a candidate in the next election unless he corrects this situation. We have that power at the commission.

Mr. Dean: If they do not provide it in a year or something like that.

Mr. Bailie: They have six months to provide it. If it is not provided—actually, we cannot locate this candidate. We have even asked for the

assistance of the party and it was unable to locate him. He has probably gone. That will happen some times. There is just one candidate whom we have had to take that severe an action against.

Mr. Dean: Has there been an increased problem in the last election or two about people who want to sort of nudge in on the rules about signs in the polling places? Is that a problem?

Mr. Bailie: No, actually, it is not too much of a problem, partly because there is no law in place. I do not know if you are aware of it, but we have relied on the good judgement of candidates and parties and we have had very little difficulty with it.

Mr. Dean: I was not aware there was no law.

Mr. Bailie: No, there is no law. The election act is silent on signs.

Mr. Turner: But everybody says you are in deep trouble if you do not—

Mr. Bailie: I know, but we have had very little difficulty. Only occasionally have we had to ask someone, because we have a situation where we have rented a party room in an apartment building and two people with an apartment right beside the main door have put a sign in the window, which they have a right to do. However, if people complain, we will often ask the deputy returning officer to come and ask them if they would mind taking it down. If they say, "It is my property; it is none of your business;" that is true. We ask for co-operation and we generally get it. All we can do is control signs in the polling area. The area we rent is all we have control over. It is not even in the act. We take the position that if we are renting these premises we have a right to do it.

16:20

A lady complained to me, "Mr. Bailie, if you walk up the sidewalk to the polling place, there is a sign right in the middle of the sidewalk." It sounded very strange that there would be a sign in the middle of the sidewalk. She explained it was a semi-detached house. It had a cement sidewalk. As you got halfway up it bowed out like this with a planting area in the middle. This neighbour put a sign right on his property within an inch. As people walked by, they saw this sign.

She was in a rage. She said, "I complained to the deputy returning officer and he said he asked them to take it down and they would not." I said, "That is all we can do." She was really upset. I said, "You are really offended by this sign." She said, "Oh, it is just outrageous." She went on and on and I kept drawing her out. I said: "Do you not think if you feel that offended, this sign is not

going to do that party much good? It will probably do it more harm than good. Would you not agree?" She said, "I think you are right," and she relaxed. That is about all we can do in a case like that because it is somebody's private property.

Mr. Newman: There is a backlash.

Mr. Bailie: Yes, exactly. We have had good co-operation so far. I do not see it as a problem. It may be.

Mr. Bossy: When you say there is no law, I could be confused because I happen to have run in two federal elections and one provincial. I believe there is a federal law.

Mr. Bailie: I believe you are right. I was a federal returning officer way back.

Mr. Bossy: It is only since 1984. I understood it was 1,000 feet or something. Do not ask me how many metres.

Mr. Chairman: How many metres?

Mr. Bossy: Do not ask me, I said.

Mr. Turner: Three hundred.

Mr. Warner: That is excellent.

Mr. Bossy: Based on the fact that today the first question people seem to ask when they go for an interview is how much it pays, how quickly can you identify what will be paid for the enumerators, polling clerks or whatever?

Mr. Bailie: I have a proposal all ready to go to the Treasurer. This is what it looks like when it has all been approved and printed. Those are distributed by the returning officers to the parties so they can advise the people they are trying to get to take the positions of enumerators. Is that what you mean?

Mr. Bossy: That is exactly it. I want to follow up on the effects of this, which normally, as I understood it, they usually only get when the writ comes down. If there was advance knowledge of what was going to be paid, it could alleviate those parties looking for enumerators. You might be able to get enumerators more easily by saying, "This is what it pays." Before, if you called them and they asked, "What does it pay?" you said: "We do not really know what it pays. You will have to feel that we are going to be fair."

Some of those people do not accept government or anyone else as being fair all the time.

Mr. Bailie: We have a proposal all ready. Part of the problem is that I have been told the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) does not have five minutes available in the next three weeks, but it is going to go to his office the first of the week. I

hope there will be a parliamentary subcommittee appointed to study it.

I expect we will have this in printed form, if all goes well, by about February. We will have it well in advance. That is a good suggestion. We will get it out to the party headquarters and make sure our returning officers get it to the associations in the local areas long before the writ is issued. We are not required to hold it until the writ is issued. We will do that.

Mr. Bossy: This may be a different question. It concerns the identification of polls and how the lines are drawn. As we have experienced in the past, especially in the rural areas, the boundaries between polls were halfway between concessions. It would be divided as "the south part of lot so and so" and it could be the same concession. Even in the last election, especially in our riding, several places were missed in enumeration. There was confusion about where the boundary was. One enumerator thought, "I do not have that side of the street," or whatever.

I hope we can make the divisions down the entire street, both sides of the street, and the same thing with concession roads. We should use the concession roads as the dividers and not something halfway in the boondocks where there is not even a fence line.

I am quite sure that even the returning officers have been slightly confused or else they did not fill in the proper forms; that happened and there was a bit of a disaster in my riding. To avoid that, there should be proper identification of the street that is the boundary. I know we are playing with numbers and if you go to both sides, there might be too many people in one area and not enough in another, but it is still more important that the entire street be taken as a boundary.

Mr. Bailie: Both sides of the street?

Mr. Bossy: Both sides of the street. It is more important to do that, even though it may throw out the numbers, for proper identification for enumerators when they are going down a street. They should have the entire street, both sides of it.

I do not know what has been done about it. I understand there are going to be some new returning officers. I do not know exactly how many, but there are a few, and they are going to have to decide where the boundaries are.

Mr. Bailie: It is true. This is a delegated responsibility, as you can appreciate. This is not something I can do or control to any extent. The way the organization works is that a returning officer who has local knowledge of the area is appointed. We have instructions. Miss Wells has

been heading up the instructions. We have been giving considerable thought to these descriptions. We hope there will be improvement in this area.

You made the point that it is best if people on both sides of the street are in the same polling area. It then follows that the dividing line would come between these streets. If we use the street as a dividing line, that makes it a lot easier to describe. In other words, we can say "bounded on the south by College Street, bounded on the north by the centre line of Bloor." Then the people on both sides of the street are not in the same poll. We have difficulty accommodating both things, although both are very desirable. However, we keep working on it.

Mr. Dean: I would like to say a word on the same topic. I recognize the difficulty of describing in legal or proper terms where the poll is if you do not have the dividing line down the middle of the street. In practical terms, whether canvassing the street for enumeration or electioneering, it is a heck of a lot easier if you have both sides to do. I am sure you know that.

It might be even tougher in some areas than in others to do it that way. What Mr. Bossy has been saying should be carefully weighed, if you have not already weighed it. It would be a lot more efficient.

Mr. Bailie: Yes.

Mr. Bossy: For the electors themselves, people on the same street tend to know each other and they think because they live on the same street they should be going to the same polling station. They might go with a friend across the street and end up at the wrong poll.

16:30

Mr. Warner: Let us back up for a minute. I am not clear on the process and the inner workings of this grand office. Is it your responsibility to consider how the rules are being applied, what works and what does not work, and then come up with a report of suggestions about how the act should be changed? Is that part of your duties?

Mr. Bailie: Yes. I will be making a report to the members of the House probably towards the end of January. The suggestion I would offer is to change the act to improve such things as we have been talking about. That would be the procedure.

Mr. Warner: I am not prying with respect to the contents of your report. I am wondering whether you have considered, either lately or in the past few years, the choice of election day, for example. Would there some advantage to the

public in general if election day were on a Sunday rather than being traditionally held on a Thursday? Have you looked at a permanent voters' list as an answer to the enumeration problems? Have you taken a look at proxy voting? For some, that remains a difficult process. There are other questions, but have you had a chance to think about those three in particular?

Mr. Bailie: Over the years we have looked into the voting day but only in relation to advice I was asked to give to municipal study committees. It has not come to my attention that there is any difficulty with the Thursday tradition we have, but it is something I observe and keep track of. We know the federal elections are always on a Monday. Quebec tried voting on a Sunday in one election, but it felt it did not serve the people or the system well and departed from it. They tried voting on a Sunday about 25 years ago, and it did not work well in their opinion. There has not been much thought given to it, but it is something we always keep looking at.

The permanent voters' list is something we are constantly asked about. I was asked to speak to the new study committee on municipal elections. Miss Wells and I went. The chief electoral officer of Canada met us, and the three of us spoke to the Advisory Committee on Municipal Elections. We talked about the possibility of permanent lists. The problem with permanent lists, as the name implies, is that there is no such thing, because nothing is permanent. If it is okay today, tomorrow it is out of date. I studied the election system in the United States, where there are these "permanent lists," and it costs about three times as much to keep them updated.

I had a chance to attend a study committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in Halifax. Miss Wells and I were both there, along with the chief electoral officer of Canada. We had discussions with people from New Zealand and Australia about their permanent lists. It became very clear that the cost of keeping such a list up to date for the four years between elections, constantly updating it, deleting names of people who have died or moved away and adding people who turn 18 years of age, would be much more than the cost of producing our list.

I guess you are aware that we are the only country in the world, as far as we can tell, that has enumeration. One of its advantages is that it heralds the election. Two people representing two of the major parties go to every door in the land within three weeks of election day. It has that advantage.

One of our provinces, Prince Edward Island, went to a permanent list about eight or nine years ago. It came to the conclusion that it did not work and went back to enumeration in the last election. British Columbia has a registration, permanent-list system. As of the last legislation changes, they now have legislation to do an enumeration to keep the permanent list up to date; it is self-defeating.

Mr. Dean: The best of both worlds.

Mr. Bailie: I just share that with you. Those are developments that have just taken place.

Mr. Warner: I raise this for two purposes: first, to determine whether there is a dynamic process at work whereby we are constantly reviewing how elections are conducted and trying to make appropriate adjustments; and second, to determine whether through our procedures we can address the question of the relatively low turnout we experience in Ontario. The provincial average is around 60 per cent or 62 per cent, which is very low. In Quebec, the provincial turnout is traditionally in the range of 80 per cent, which is very high.

Mr. Bailie: And in the west.

Mr. Warner: The same is true out west. They have an extremely high percentage. It may be folks do not feel there is any particular reason to go out and vote for any of the candidates. That is understandable, at least in Peterborough.

I wondered whether there were structural things that would be of assistance in trying to get a higher turnout, such as the day of the week when the election is held and having a permanent list which folks have to sign that is kept up to date so you know in advance who the qualified voters are. You have answered both of those quite well.

Mr. Bailie: We monitor it very closely. The last time there was a full-scale study on the day of the week—as a matter of fact, Mr. Newman was on the committee—they had different people speak to them about the day. The process they used was this: Monday was not ideal because quite often Monday is a holiday; Tuesday seemed to be pretty good; Wednesday in small-town Ontario at that time was often a half-day for merchants and that would not be a good idea; Thursday seemed to be pretty good; Friday was not too good a day because it is traditionally shopping day, and if anyone is going away on the weekend or starting a holiday, he often saves one extra day; Saturday and Sunday are the weekend.

They narrowed it down that Tuesday and Thursday were the best, and Thursday was chosen. I do not know whether they tossed a coin

or what. I do not know whether Mr. Newman can remember that. A committee he was on studied that in 1968.

Mr. Newman: There is no ideal day.

Mr. Warner: There may not be.

I want to come back to the proxy vote in a moment. I do not know whether this is within your realm or jurisdiction. Is there any evidence to indicate that it is important or necessary not to allow the bars and taverns or the LCBO and Brewers' Retail stores to be open on election day?

Mr. Bailie: There is no problem. In 1975, it was taken out of the regulations in the Liquor Control Act. It was never in the Election Act. The bars have been open from the 1975 election on.

Mr. Warner: The bars are open?

Mr. Bailie: Yes. It was never in the Election Act. It was in the regulations attached to the Liquor Control Act.

Mr. Warner: I thought they were closed.

Mr. Bailie: Mr. Grossman called up Mr. Lewis one day and said, "Do you think there is any need today to keep this in here?" Mr. Lewis said, "No." They took it out at that time. Starting with the 1975 election, the bars have been open.

Mr. Warner: I stand corrected. I thought they were still closed.

Mr. Bailie: They are during the federal election.

Miss Wells: It was 1978.

Mr. Bailie: I am sorry; the 1978 election was the first one.

Miss Wells: The amendments to the Liquor Licence Act were made in 1978.

Mr. Bailie: So the 1981 election would be the first time.

Miss Wells: It was simply removed from the regulations.

Mr. Bailie: It was never in our act. However, it is still in force for the federal elections and the chief electoral officer has recommended that it be removed.

Mr. Warner: Could I return to proxy votes for a minute? Some changes were made in the past election for proxies, right?

Mr. Bailie: Right.

16:40

Mr. Warner: Perhaps it is simply my confusion or that of my team. Can you refresh my memory on what the new regulations provide in

order that I as a voter would qualify for a proxy vote and how I would go about obtaining one?

Mr. Bailie: We made recommendations, but all our recommendations were not approved.

These are the categories of people who may have a proxy—this is from the printed Election Act:

“...being a member or the spouse or child of a member of the Canadian forces as defined by the National Defence Act;”—in other words, any service personnel—“or being employed in business of long-distance transportation by railway, air, water, or motor vehicle; or business commitments or employer’s directions;”—in other words, if I were a chauffeur and I had to drive my employer somewhere then I would have a right to a proxy; and if my employer was truly going on business, he would have the right to a proxy—“or being a person who for medical reasons is physically incapable of attending a polling place; or being a student duly registered at a recognized educational institution; or being a person participating in a job training or retraining program; or being an inmate in a penal or correctional institution, not under sentence of imprisonment.”

It was my recommendation that we take all those categories out and it would read like this:

“Where an elector has reason to believe that he or she will be unable to vote at the advance poll or on polling day, the elector may apply in writing to vote by proxy and appoint some other person in the electoral district to vote for him.”

Mr. Warner: If that were adopted, would that apply to Canadian citizens normally resident in Ontario who at the time of election were not resident in Ontario, i.e., someone who was residing in another country because of business commitment?

Mr. Bailie: The residence is described as follows:

“The place where a person’s family resides shall be deemed to be his residence unless he takes up or continues his residence at some other place” or “The place where a single person occupies a room....” Basically what it amounts to is that “‘residence,’ and similar expressions used in relation to a person, means his true, fixed, permanent home or lodging place....”

You could have a residence in Ontario, and you could be in Europe for two years and still claim to maintain a residence here—as long as there is a place you can return to at will. In other words, if you rented your house on a 12-month lease, you have not maintained a residence; but if you had a residence and you moved away and

allowed somebody to move in on a month-to-month basis whereby you could return at will, you have maintained a residence.

Mr. Warner: Right. That still excludes people who are on assignment for a year, two years, three years or whatever to other countries.

Mr. Bailie: Unless they are with the armed forces.

Mr. Warner: Unless you are in the armed forces. This is not as progressive as many other countries.

Mr. Bailie: That is true. It is not as progressive.

Mr. Warner: It would have been your view that we should expand the opportunities so we do not disfranchise those who are normally Ontario residents.

Mr. Bailie: Yes. My general feeling and advice to members would be along this line. We are getting to an area where I think we have to be careful to make sure we are talking about people who are truly residents voting. I would lean towards making the proxy provisions more open as I have just indicated.

However, when we start going outside the borders of the province and the country, we have to be careful. I am not sure I agree with systems that say, “You can move to another country and have no ties with this country for years and yet we still welcome you to vote.” That is something society has to decide, and it does that by making its views known to you, the elected representatives. I will be able to figure out the mechanics of how to do it, I will be glad to discuss that type of issue, but I am not prepared to make any kind of statement.

Mr. Warner: On medical proxies, quite frankly, I thought the previous system was in place to make sure people who had medical problems did not get to vote because of the absolutely bizarre arrangement they had to go through. You had to obtain the form, get it to the family doctor, get it signed and back to the person who was bedridden, etc., and then forward it to the returning officer. There were so many groups involved that most people gave up and did not bother. That has been changed somewhat.

Mr. Bailie: Suppose I was bedridden. I could ask somebody to be my proxy. He would go to the returning officer and say, “I take an oath that my brother Ross is unable to vote and he has asked me to be his proxy.” I do not have to have a doctor’s certificate. It was a little strange that

somebody who was unable to get to the poll for a medical reason—

Mr. Warner: Could get to the doctor.

Mr. Bailie: —could not have a proxy, but someone else could practically just phone us and say, "I am a long-distance truck driver" or "I am a student." They did not have to have a certificate. However, it was part of the act; we recommended that it come out and it did. It is straightforward now.

Mr. Warner: Are you satisfied that it works properly?

Mr. Bailie: Yes. You cannot see it from here, but we had some concerns. When I spoke to the cabinet about it, some members expressed some concern, and I said: "We are going to be careful. We are going to produce the form so that the penalties, warnings and so forth are very clearly listed, but we are going to try to make sure no one loses the chance to have his franchise through some administrative procedure that we have put into place."

That is my general philosophy. We want to make sure we remove any impediment, real or imagined, that has in any way stopped someone from going to vote within what would be generally regarded as a fairly secure system, to make sure that people do not vote twice or that those who do not have the right to vote do not do so. We have to balance that.

Mr. Bossy: There is a problem that exists in nursing homes, especially in nursing homes where there are large numbers of people who are totally incapable of thinking for themselves, yet are mobile to a certain degree. I have heard some horror stories where someone—and we must say it is usually an attendant or someone—keeps taking these people to vote. The patients do not even know one from another, and the attendants are taking them to the voting booth. They are with the person and they directly, you might as well say, hold the person's hand to mark the ballot.

Mr. Warner: They mark the ballot.

Mr. Bossy: They mark the ballot. That is exactly what I have been told. I do not know how you would stop them from doing that. Even though you take the bed or whatever it is right into the booth, if that person cannot mark the ballot personally, I am reluctant to say he should vote.

Mr. Bailie: Exactly.

Mr. Bossy: This is happening all over the place.

Mr. Bailie: This is an area we must be very careful about. In your electoral district in the next

election, by law, we are going to accept the nomination you will give us for a deputy returning officer in each and every poll, and we are going to rely upon you to choose people who realize this responsibility, especially in a nursing home poll.

In that same electoral district, the Conservative Party is going to have the right to nominate the poll clerk. I am not sure; maybe it is the New Democratic Party, but it is one or the other of the two opposition parties. It is important that you realize this is something you have to watch. We need you to be very careful and give us the best people so they can police it. Each party has a responsibility to have a scrutineer there to oversee this.

That is how we make sure. We have to be very careful in establishing laws that say, "If somebody starts to get a little senile we had better cut them off the list." I look at Mrs. Jones and I remember her from when I was a little boy, and I know she is a Tory, so she is getting senile. In fact, she must have been senile all along or she would not have voted that way. It is an area you have to be careful of.

16:50

Mr. Warner: Only senile people vote Tory.

Mr. Bailie: Some people look at the election results the day after the election and say, "My heavens, 40 per cent of the people were senile, obviously."

Mr. Chairman: In Sudbury East it is only 40 per cent of the people.

Mr. Bossy: That is why it is very sensitive. There could be quite an argument in that poll on who is the person to make that decision.

Mr. Bailie: Not so, because the deputy returning officer is in charge of the poll. He should make sure that if the attendants in these nursing homes bring the patients up, they bring them up only to the deputy returning officer. The returning officer is not supposed to allow anyone to proceed from that point to the voting compartment; only the deputy returning officer.

Mr. Warner: The problem then is if the deputy returning officer is part of this little charade. That is why we have scrutineers. The party representatives there who notice what the deputy returning officer is allowing to happen, and is participating in it, then contact the returning officer for the riding; would that be the proper way to handle it?

Mr. Bailie: We had a nursing home on Christie Street and I got a call from one of the parties. I jumped in the car and went up there.

The situation was very similar to what Mr. Bossy described.

I closed the poll quickly and at that time I guess I did not have the authority to do that. I was the assistant chief election officer and the wording of the act was not as clear as it is now. We established some guidelines quickly and the candidate's wife, who had been going up and getting these people in the wheelchairs from their rooms and bringing them down and helping them a little more than we would have liked her to, was restricted. I put a piece of masking tape around the floor about two feet in front of the DRO and said: "That is as close as the attendants can come. If the voter needs assistance, he has to ask the DRO for assistance."

We have a new provision in the act that Miss Wells just reminded me of. A voter can ask for a friend to assist him, but an attendant in a nursing home cannot be a friend to any more than one. We try to watch that carefully, but if you are sensitive to it, as you clearly are, we need the parties to be a lot more sensitive in the selection of these DROs, poll clerks and good scrutineers. That is how the system will be corrected.

Mr. Bossy: I have a question on the enumerators. Do the returning officers still have the enumerators' lists from the previous election?

Mr. Bailie: Yes, we supply them with the previous list as a help.

Mr. Bossy: Is this list marked to indicate those that were not done right or were not properly typed or whatever? In other words, are those enumerators who did a bum job identified?

Mr. Bailie: The returning officers are told to keep a list of people who fail to conduct the election properly in whatever aspects. We hope we can rely on the co-operation of the returning officers who are not being appointed now to pass that list on to the new ones.

If it comes to our attention, we keep records of these and especially the poll staff, the DROs and poll clerks. We go over the poll books and if someone has not done a good job, we will send his name to the returning officer and say: "This person has not done a good job according to our review of the poll books. We advise you not to reappoint him unless you can spend considerable time training him." We cannot in law say you cannot appoint this person, but we would advise you not to reappoint him unless you can spend considerable time training him. We keep them aware by any names that come to our attention.

Mr. Bossy: I have a little different question again. I am still a little confused because of the

commissions that are set up. Do you work with the Ontario Electoral Boundaries Commission or does that have any ties to your office?

Mr. Bailie: There is a fairly definite tie this time. I was appointed as vice-chairman of the commission. I invited the commission to use our boardroom as its office. We supplied the logistical help it needed for typing, photocopying and so forth.

Mr. Bossy: Is the Commission on Election Contributions and Expenses a separate commission again?

Mr. Bailie: It is a completely separate commission, but as chief election officer I am automatically a member of that commission.

Mr. Bossy: There is the tie-in of your office to these different commissions. What other commission might exist that you might be tied to?

Mr. Bailie: There is continuity.

Mr. Bossy: Are those the only two commissions?

Mr. Bailie: Those are the only two. There is some talk of a commission to supervise and improve the training and turnout, or an attempt to do that in municipal elections. I understand the recommendations are that the chief election officer will automatically be a member of that commission too.

Mr. Bossy: That sort of clarifies it.

Mr. Dean: On a totally different question, do you have any way of monitoring what is happening with the new rule concerning Canadian citizens? I noticed some big advertisements last summer in the paper advising people who were British subjects but who may not have taken out Canadian citizenship that they better do it before the next election. I do not suppose you can follow that up, but I am wondering if this is going to be an acute problem in the next election.

Mr. Bailie: We anticipated it might be a problem and a concern to some people. Miss Wells and I worked together and we came up with an advertising plan and we put the ads that you saw in the paper. We have produced some posters that we have put in different offices. We sent each member of the House a copy of that ad, which you probably received. We were trying to get everyone's co-operation to get the message around so that it is clear. I even went and took out proof of citizenship at the citizenship court and the judge allowed me to make a little statement. Reporters were, of course, tipped off and we got a bit of coverage at that time as well. We are really anxious to do anything. If there are any

suggestions that the members could make as to how we could do even more—

Mr. Dean: Do you have any estimate at all of the number or percentage of people affected? I know it would vary from riding to riding.

Mr. Bailie: There was an estimate that we got from the federal election officers. Their law changed a few years earlier. We think it is in the neighbourhood of 300,000. It is a little hard to tell. I have a letter of protest from one man. In his letter he was going on and he was just so about this. He said, "I have lived in Canada for 41 years. I fought in the Canadian army. You are disfranchising me." I said, "Sir, in the first place if you had lived here for 41 years, from what I have heard, you are automatically a Canadian citizen, but you should check with the citizenship court and get your proof of citizen. I do not think you have been disfranchised," considering the length of time he had been here.

Mr. Dean: What is the rule about that?

Mr. Bailie: I forget exactly, but at the time I answered his letter I knew there was a certain year, and I do not know what year it was, but he definitely was included.

Interjection.

Mr. Bailie: I am sorry. I cannot remember.

Mr. Dean: I know there has been some concern at this time.

Mr. Bailie: We will send out more literature on that so the members will be able to answer that question.

Mr. Dean: It might be a good thing for us to emphasize somewhere.

Mr. Bailie: Be a citizen.

Miss Wells: I received it in my newsletter from my MPP, which is verbatim what we had put on our poster. I was glad to see that.

Mr. Dean: Did it fill much of the page?

Miss Wells: No, it was just a couple of paragraphs.

Mr. Bossy: What effect will Bill 8 have on you people or has that entered the picture yet?

Mr. Chairman: French-language services.

Mr. Bailie: It will have considerable effect. I believe Miss Wells has made a careful study of it. Would you like to speak to that?

17:00

Miss Wells: Yes. I am the co-ordinator of French-language services for the office of the chief election officer. As such, I sit on the interministerial committee of French-language co-ordinators. We have been looking into the bill

for the implications for our office and the implications for returning officers. For the past three general elections, our advertising campaigns have been in both official languages, English and French.

The forms for the electors in the last three general elections have been provided in English and French. The notices are provided in English and French. We have been running training courses for newly appointed returning officers and I have made a careful study of the electoral districts that are in the designated areas of the province as outlined in the schedule to the bill.

When I am training the new returning officers, I advise them in their class that they should be providing someone who can deal with the public in French and English. The problem for our office is that the 30 Toronto electoral districts, as well as Hamilton-Wentworth, are designated areas.

I am suggesting to the returning officers that they try to find bilingual people for their office, but it is somewhat difficult. It is not like getting a motor vehicle licence where you can go from Carleton-Grenville into Ottawa; you cannot get added on the list from Wentworth North, for example, in Hamilton West or something like that. We are trying to handle it that way. We have bilingual personnel in the election office. We hope we can handle the Toronto calls in that fashion, as we did in the last election.

Most of our signs for the returning offices will be bilingual. I think we have done a great deal in that direction and we are trying to keep on top of it as we go along, but it is quite a problem. Where we have had most complaints in the past on French-language services under the old policy of the government was the fact that enumerators could not speak either English or French.

We are in a bind because the Election Act tells us it is the parties that give us the enumerators. I have been training the new returning officers that they should be dealing with the parties early when an election is anticipated and reminding the parties that they are in a designated area and if at all possible to remind the Liberal Party and the other party which is responsible for the nomination of enumerators and poll officials that we will be looking for bilingual people in the enumeration. It is going to be difficult in areas such as Metro Toronto; not necessarily in Chatham-Kent, but in Hamilton-Wentworth, Toronto and the Simcoe area it could be a problem for us.

Mr. Bailie: Just the night before last, I attended a meeting and have approval in principle from the Board of Internal Economy to hire

two additional staff members to handle French-language services in the office.

Vote 3601 agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: We thank you very much for co-operating with us. We appreciate your ability to attend at short notice.

Next week we will do the television stuff, year-end report, process for using the transmitter, simultaneous interpretation and anything else you want.

The committee adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

CONTENTS

Wednesday, December 10, 1986

Office of the Chief Election Officer program:	M-27
Adjournment	M-39

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

Bossy, M. L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Braugh, M. J., Chairman (Oshawa NDP)
Dean, G. H. (Wentworth PC)
Martel, E. W. (Sudbury East NDP)
Newman, B. (Windsor-Walkerville L)
Turner, J. M. (Peterborough PC)
Warner, D. W. (Scarborough-Ellesmere NDP)

Witnesses:

From the Office of the Chief Election Officer:

Bailie, W. R., Chief Election Officer
Goodwin, J. D., Chief Financial Officer
Wells, L., Chief Election Clerk and Information Officer





No. M-3

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



Standing Committee on the Legislative Assembly
Supplementary Estimates, Office of the Assembly

Second Session, 33rd Parliament
Wednesday, December 17, 1986

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: C. L. DesRosiers

CONTENTS

Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of the speakers taking part.

Reference to a cumulative index of previous issues can be obtained by calling the Hansard Reporting Service indexing staff at (416) 965-2159.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Chairman: Breaugh, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)

Vice-Chairman: Mancini, R. (Essex South L)

Bossy, M. L. (Chatham-Kent L)

Dean, G. H. (Wentworth PC)

Martel, E. W. (Sudbury East NDP)

Morin, G. E. (Carleton East L)

Newman, B. (Windsor-Walkerville L)

Treleaven, R. L. (Oxford PC)

Turner, J. M. (Peterborough PC)

Villeneuve, N. (Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry PC)

Warner, D. W. (Scarborough-Ellesmere NDP)

Clerk: Mellor, L.

Assistant Clerk: Decker, T.

Hansard subscription price is \$16.00 per session, from: Sessional Subscription Service, Information Services Branch, Ministry of Government Services, 5th Floor, 880 Bay Street, Toronto, M7A 1N8. Phone (416) 965-2238.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, December 17, 1986

The committee met at 3:38 p.m. in room 228.

After other business:

15:45

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, OFFICE OF THE ASSEMBLY

Mr. Chairman: We have before us supplementary expenditure estimates for the Office of the Assembly. Mr. Speaker, do you have some opening remarks you want to put on the record?

Mr. Speaker: It is nice to be before you again. It seems to me it was not long ago that I was here previously. However, a number of requests have been made to the Board of Internal Economy, which requires us to return to you for approval of these supplementary estimates.

Briefly, because they are outlined very well in the booklet, I should make a few comments setting out where some of the larger amounts may be found. The 1986-87 supplementary estimates of the Office of the Assembly are in the amount of \$6,677,400, the original estimates being \$68,593,600. The largest element of the supplementary estimates is \$3,582,700 for sessional requirements. This item funds members' Queen's Park offices and assembly or support expenses of a general nature. Members' office mailing expenses are a part of this item and members' office expenses generally have risen to a total of \$1.1 million.

Another major expense is tied into the space alignment going on in the Legislative Building and the costs associated with developing new offices for members. The base budget in this area of \$450,000 must be increased to \$1,350,000, which is \$900,000 more, to accommodate the ongoing work.

A second significant element of the supplementary estimates is the amount of \$841,600 for members' support services. This amount is required to cover salary awards to the members' staff.

The supplementary estimates requested by the Office of the Assembly also include a revised budget for the Office of the Speaker. This budget includes funding for the revised retirement package for Mr. Lewis, the former Clerk of the House. The board has approved a revised agreement that includes a one-time payment of

\$97,700 for vacation pay and related statutory benefits and \$220,000 for the purchase of an annuity.

Other highlights of the estimates include an additional \$349,100 for caucus support services to cover the costs of additional computer equipment for the caucus offices. Similarly, an additional \$333,700 is requested for the general administration of the assembly to cover salary awards and additional staff in the human resources branch and staff support for facilities planning and office relocation projects.

Finally, it is important to note that \$313,800 is required for the Commission on Election Finances to cover the reorganization of the commission and funds for unbudgeted by-elections.

That gives you an idea of some of the items and may help to stimulate some questions you may have for me or for members of the Office of the Assembly staff.

Mr. Chairman: For those of you who may not know it, the huge crowd amassed in the room today is a small portion of the staff that usually follows the Speaker around wherever he goes. We are not accustomed to drawing such large crowds. I am sure they can answer any questions you can think of.

15:50

On vote 3501, Office of the Assembly program:

Mr. Mancini: Who can tell me how much it cost to redo the first floor of the north wing?

Mr. Waters: The bills have not been given in yet. What we have had from the Ministry of Government Services, which is handling the construction, is an estimate of what the total draws will be. It has not given us the bills and I do not have a specific breakdown on how much it will be for the first floor.

Mr. Mancini: Will you undertake to give it to this committee whenever you have the bills or what have you? Whenever you are satisfied that you have received all the accounting, can we get a full accounting and a breakdown of the refurbishing of the first floor of the north wing? I would be very interested in that.

Mr. Speaker: What is the estimate, Mr. Waters?

Mr. Waters: The \$1.2-million figure the Speaker referenced was for the entire building. That is inclusive of the first floor north, which is not completed yet. There is another stage that will have to be done at a later time.

Mr. Mancini: Do you mean it is going to get better?

Mr. Waters: Yes. The second floor of the north wing is also included in that, and some of the work that has been done in the Whitney Block and on various offices around the building.

Mr. Mancini: What else has to be done to the first floor of the north wing?

Mr. Waters: I believe there are three or four members' offices that have to be reworked. Their size is not appropriate for the current standards. I believe that is to be handled by MGS imminently. Then there is the completion of the reworking of the Progressive Conservative caucus area. That is being done in stages. We do not have the room to move anybody out and into, so it is a working around.

Mr. Mancini: Will you do me a favour? Will you explain to me the steps in the procedure to get works such as these done? Is a request made to you personally, and by whom; and then do you speak with Mr. Fleming? What are the steps? I would like to know how it is done.

Mr. Fleming: At the moment, there is an assistant director of supply and services, Molly Pellecchia. The process is that she would meet with the chief administrator or the director of administration, in that case of the PC caucus, to review the requirements. In this case, the fact that members were able to have more staff had a considerable effect on the size of the offices. The area we had planned for members had to be considerably reconfigured.

Mr. Mancini: Excuse me. So that I understand correctly, would it be a senior staff person of a particular caucus.

Mr. Fleming: Yes. In this case, it also involved Darwin Kealey, the chief manager of that caucus. Meetings were held. We have regular meetings once a week with the Ministry of Government Services. A committee was set up.

Mr. Mancini: That person would come to you and say, "These are our needs." As I understand it, you have already set standards. Am I correct?

Mr. Fleming: Yes.

Mr. Mancini: Are the standards written down?

Mr. Fleming: Yes. There is a standard assumed size, assumed furniture—

Mr. Mancini: Is it written down some place?

Mr. Fleming: Yes, it is. I would have to consult Mr. Waters about exactly what the square footage is, but where we can we are definitely working on a given space area.

Mr. Mancini: Are these standards part of the Manual of Administration?

Mr. Fleming: It is not yet in the Manual of Administration.

Mr. Mancini: Are these standards finalized and approved or is it something we are doing? Are we working on the building and the standards at the same time? Is that what you are telling me?

Mr. Fleming: We are saying that, where possible, there will be a given square footage for members. It is my understanding that in the case of the Whitney Block we can do it. In the case of this main building we cannot, at least not in this part. In the north wing we have been attempting to meet the space requirement for the member, and if necessary three individuals.

Mr. Mancini: Once the senior staff person meets with you and you conclude it is within whatever reasonable standards have been set, you go to the Ministry of Government Services and ask it to carry out this work. Is that how it is done?

Mr. Fleming: It is even shorter than that. Trying to avoid all bureaucracy, we would meet with Molly Pellecchia and her group. If necessary we meet with Larry Waters, who is her boss, and with our contact person in the Ministry of Government Services and the people there.

Mr. Mancini: Who would be the contact at Government Services?

Mr. Fleming: At the moment there are two, Gunars Laivenieks and Albert Côté, the director of the branch. In our contacts with Mr. Côté and Mr. Laivenieks we would be deciding priorities and it would be up to them to decide such questions as the letting of tenders.

Mr. Mancini: Once it gets past you, is it more or less a fait accompli? Once the administration branch of the Legislative Assembly, working under the Speaker, says: "These are the standards. This is what we have to do to meet the standards," and once you make your request to Government Services, can we assume it automatically carries out these requests, given that it has to tender and do all the other things?

Mr. Fleming: We do that as much as possible, bearing in mind that in the case of the north wing

the Progressive Conservatives had certain requirements and in the case of the third floor west the members of the New Democratic Party had certain needs. If we possibly can, we try to meet the needs of the caucus administrators and members, given the space constraints and that kind of thing.

Mr. Mancini: Can I can expect to have all these costs? I wish to have included the furniture, fixtures and all that.

Mr. Fleming: Definitely; there is no problem.

Mr. Mancini: I would like to be able to understand it when I get it.

Mr. Fleming: Sure.

Mr. Waters: We have had quite a bit of discussion with Government Services through the year making the system work as described. At the start there was some confusion. Some requests over the year have gone directly to Government Services and have become lost. We have straightened that out and have a process in place.

Government Services has also been changing its principles for the chargeback to the assembly. As of this date, it is charging us for pretty well everything on the inside of paint. However, if it starts looking at a section—for example, with the NDP renovations on the second floor, north wing, we would not be paying for the asbestos removal. That charge alone would be about \$250,000. That is part of the cost borne by Government Services. If, in going through the building, the ministry finds that pipes have rotted or that there are structural deficiencies in the floor, it would make repairs at the same time, at its cost. It is responsible for the structure. We are responsible for making the facility an office and paying for that part of it.

I will be able to report that to you and I will certainly ask Government Services for the information on the larger costs, if you would like that information.

Mr. Mancini: Yes, I would like it all broken down; that way we can get a better idea. This information will help the subcommittee on members' services too.

We are spending a lot of money redoing space in the building. It has always been one of my concerns that we are fixing up the building in different portions and are not trying to get some overall plan. In two or three years' time, if somebody comes up with an overall plan for the assembly, a lot of what we have already done may or may not fit. That is vitally important. I am sure Mr. Warner would agree with that. We have

to start doing things that fit with some future plan, whatever that future plan is.

Can we get a breakdown of the \$264,000 for the legislative library and what that money was for? I know we have broad breakdowns, but they are very general.

16:00

Mr. Chairman: I think you are asking for a written presentation that would indicate specific costs.

Mr. Mancini: You mean for the library?

Mr. Chairman: Yes.

Mr. Mancini: No, just offhand, right now.

Mr. Speaker: We have Mr. Land, or Mr. Waters has the information right here.

Mr. Chairman: Perhaps Mr. Land will come up here or just to the end there, as long as we have a microphone that can pick him up.

Mr. Land: If I heard correctly, the question was on the breakdown for the salary component or for the—

Mr. Mancini: I was just looking at it. It says \$264,600 for the bottom-line figure and then there are salaries and wages, \$180,800, and employee benefits, \$35,200. Can we get a more detailed account? Have you taken on new staff? Have there been staff changes? Have people been given—whatever has happened, so we can have a better idea of what's going on.

Mr. Land: Okay. The salary awards, which are annual increments based on the standards approved by the human resources branch, amounted this year to \$180,800.

Mr. Mancini: Is that the regular basic increase or is that merit? Is merit included in that?

Mr. Land: That is the regular increase or any increase that came about as a result of changes in salary ranges that affected some of our employees and increments.

Mr. Mancini: Is that merit pay you are talking about, the increments?

Mr. Land: Yes.

Mr. Mancini: Is it the general practice of your department to—you referred to them as increments?

Mr. Land: Merit, whatever, yes.

Mr. Mancini: Is it the general practice of your department that everyone at least gets considered for some type of merit increase and then somebody makes a decision on it? Is that the way it works?

Mr. Land: Yes. As part of the normal procedure, each employee receives an annual

performance appraisal as the principal determinant in whether an increase is recommended, and if so what percentage. I believe that last year the increases were up to about five per cent, those percentages being established not by the library but by the human resources branch. Those recommendations go forward for each employee to the director of human resources.

Mr. Mancini: I see. If I understand you correctly, do all your employees get the same merit increase across the board?

Mr. Land: No.

Mr. Mancini: How many employees do you have in the branch now?

Mr. Land: We have 87 full-time employees.

Mr. Mancini: Out of the 87, do you know offhand what percentage of them got merit increases or did they all receive merit increases; and what was the range?

Mr. Land: In terms of percentages?

Mr. Mancini: Yes.

Mr. Land: I do not have that information offhand. I suspect that most of the employees got four per cent or five per cent.

Mr. Mancini: Merit increases?

Mr. Land: Yes. Some of the employees are at the maximum of their salary range and so would not get any of that. I know the terminology has varied. Sometimes it is called merit and sometimes it is -

Mr. Mancini: Increment or whatever.

Mr. Land: Annual increment, whatever, that component. There have been other things going on, such as the reorganization of what now is called the office administrative group broadly through the public service. Some of the employees in the library, as well as in other areas of the assembly, have been affected by that. That will have some bearing because those are external to the library, so to speak. Whatever the Civil Service Commission has adopted is normally looked at and approved by the director of human resources and then applied equally to the library and other branches.

Mr. Mancini: Are the 87 employees all classified?

Mr. Land: Yes.

Mr. Mancini: You do not have any nonclassified staff or contract people.

Mr. Land: Yes, but not very many. There are a number of students who work 10 hours a week doing things such as shelving books and odd

chores such as that. We have some short-term contract people.

Mr. Mancini: Such as?

Mr. Land: I think we have three in the technical services at Bloor Street who are doing specific chores that come to an end at some time. It is not a continuing job. In this instance, their work is related to the computer, inputting records and so on.

Mr. Mancini: Okay.

Mr. Land: I have the other expenses, if you would like.

Mr. Mancini: I am pretty well satisfied.

Mr. Warner: There are a number of items. Are you taking this as one vote?

Mr. Chairman: Since we had these estimates a short while ago and these are supplementary estimates, I propose we deal with it as one vote, and you can ask questions on any matter that is there.

Before Mr. Warner starts, here is the problem for the assembled throng: Where is my desk? Last spring, for the first time in a decade, I ordered a desk.

Mr. Mancini: That is out of order.

Mr. Chairman: Rumour has it that the desk appeared in my office one day in September. I myself have never seen it. Before I got there it was gone again. Since then, I can report I have seen two workmen arrive to repair the desk, which was apparently broken. Subsequently, I am told, the part that was missing arrived, but the desk could not be found. Before the end of the afternoon I would like to hear from somebody: where is this thing? Somewhere around here. I keep getting notes from people saying, "The desk is in the mail," or something like that, but it has not arrived yet.

I will just let that bubble for the rest of the afternoon.

Mr. Villeneuve: Mr. Chairman, we are reputed to have a detective on certain items.

Mr. Chairman: Could I use Tim? He can find the desk.

Mr. Warner: I wonder if your desk is in the large cardboard carton that has been sitting outside my office since September.

Mr. Villeneuve: No, that is the booze.

Mr. Treleaven: No, that is Tony Lupusella.

Mr. Warner: No, we are preparing a carton.

It has been sitting in the hallway since September. It has "Do not move" on it.

Mr. Chairman: I thought you were renting that out.

Mr. Warner: I have no idea. Anyway, you threw me off track here.

There are a number of items I wish to raise. I want to clarify a figure first before I link it up with some other items. On page 22, under members' indemnities, transportation and communication, \$90,000. First, can I assume the supplementary amount of \$113,800 is as a result of the pay bills that came in the other day? No. What is this then?

Mr. Speaker: These supplementaries were made up prior to any pay bill being introduced. Mr. Waters, I will let you explain what they mean.

Mr. Waters: The expenses you are referring to are part of the expenses supported by members, as you know, for travel into Toronto and rental of Toronto accommodation if they are from outside the Metropolitan area, the 12 trips a year, and that type of expenditure. We had a budget of \$2,100,000, based on the trends and experience. The analysis to date indicates we may be as much as \$90,000 short in those expenditures this year, so we are asking to increase that amount.

Mr. Warner: Why would there then be an increase in employee benefits and salaries and wages?

16:10

Mr. Waters: That refers to another facet that deals with specific indemnities, and those are the indemnity payments to members. For example, since the time we struck the estimates there is one additional committee chairman to whom an indemnity would be paid. There are minor adjustments in how we calculate benefits for the members' indemnities.

Mr. Warner: Where does the new pay packet come in? Is it out of next year's amounts?

Mr. Waters: I will have to go to the Board of Internal Economy and, under its authority, ask for transfers of savings between votes.

Mr. Chairman: You could probably cash in the balance from the cafeteria and cover it that way.

Mr. Warner: Whichever is the lower of the two amounts.

Mr. Waters: That amount is not in the supplementary estimates.

Mr. Warner: For the sake of comparison, do you have a rough idea of the total increase for the

125 members? What amount will you be asking the board for?

Mr. Waters: Do you want the total cost?

Mr. Warner: Yes. What does the 3.9 per cent work out to?

Mr. Fleming: We will get it for you in a minute.

Mr. Warner: While that is being obtained, could I return to vote 3501-2, Office of the Clerk? There is an amount of \$270,000. How much of that \$270,000 is related to the former Clerk's settlement?

Clerk of the House: Very little; actually, nothing referred to the settlement. If you want a breakdown of that \$118,100, I would be happy to give it to you.

Mr. Speaker: The vote for the Office of the Speaker contains the amount for the Clerk Emeritus.

Mr. Warner: Sorry; wrong category then. Under the Office of the Speaker, how much of the \$364,900 is related to the Clerk's settlement?

Mr. Speaker: I think all of it is. Yes, here we are. Of the amounts requested from the Board of Internal Economy, the \$29,100—remember, these amounts were requested prior to a previous settlement, so they have been approved by cabinet. The amounts here include Mr. Lewis's stipend plus his secretary for half a year.

Mr. Dean: Is that the salaries and wages item?

Mr. Speaker: Yes, the amount of \$29,100 is for salaries and wages. The employee benefits includes the attendance gratuity, vacation pay, etc., of \$97,700, plus the \$220,000 needed for the purchase of the annuity to increase the pension payment to \$60,000 a year.

The \$7,700 for transportation and communication in the original request included the telephone, mailing, garage services and car park. The \$9,800 for supplies and equipment included the office equipment and furniture.

This was requested a number of weeks ago and was approved. Since that time, there have been negotiations and a request by Mr. Lewis, in the form of a letter to the board, to reduce those figures. Because some of the amounts were for only half a year they were not significant amounts.

The amount we probably will need will be \$317,700 instead of \$364,000. That would include the attendance gratuity, vacation pay, etc., and the purchase of the annuity. Those are the main amounts needed now.

Mr. Warner: I do not particularly want to rehash the whole unfortunate situation. Suffice it to say the present government did not handle the situation particularly well. Frankly, they made quite a botch of it.

Mr. Treleaven: Who would like to concur with that, the Speaker or the Clerk?

Mr. Warner: Perhaps you, because you guys caused the problem in the first place, in 1974, with that silly agreement.

Mr. Treleaven: We guys?

Mr. Dean: It was totally unanimous.

Mr. Warner: Nobody in his right mind should have offered a lifetime agreement; not a soul in this country gets a lifetime agreement.

Mr. Dean: I understand it was unanimously approved by the assembly.

Mr. Warner: If you recall properly, it was a majority government in 1974.

Mr. Bossy: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman: The member made some insinuation or innuendo towards the present government. It seems that the New Democratic Party wants to take credit for all the good things that happen with the present government but does not want to accept responsibility for the bad things that happen with the present government.

Mr. Chairman: Is that a point of order?

Mr. Treleaven: It sounds pretty good to me.

Mr. Warner: There is nothing out of order. I am not about to take responsibility for your mistakes. That was a large one. You did that without any prompting whatsoever.

Mr. Chairman: Can we get you back on to the estimates just a touch?

Mr. Warner: Why I ask for the two figures—and the other one is coming—is that I am wondering what the comparison is between the total amount of money the 125 members will receive and the amount of money one person will receive. I suspect a number of other members are similarly dissatisfied with the way in which the salary packet was arrived at. The Speaker will know this is the third year running that the election finances commission report has been disregarded.

I am wondering whether the Speaker can offer an opinion on whether the commission should be simply disbanded, whether this responsibility should be taken away from it—because obviously its efforts are wasted—or whether it should be empowered to set the wages. Can the Speaker offer his sage advice?

Mr. Speaker: I am sure I understand the question.

Mr. Treleaven: It is the answer that gives you the problem.

Mr. Speaker: There have been a number of occasions when recommendations have come to the Board of Internal Economy. I guess in my time they have come twice. On one occasion in particular the board did agree with the recommendation and recommended that to the government. The government decided not to accept the recommendation of the board.

I do not think there is anything in the mandate of the Legislative Assembly Act that says I could make the decision or that the Commission on Election Finances could make a recommendation that would be carried through. I know there has been a fair amount of discussion and I think that discussion will carry on.

Mr. Warner: I understand the situation you are in. On the other hand, you are on the Board of Internal Economy, and it seems to me it is not satisfactory to continue in the way we are going. One of two things has to happen. Either the charade has to end and the government simply says: "We do not care about the Commission on Election Finances or any other group. We are setting the salaries," or you empower the outside group to set the salary; one or the other.

16:20

What we have now is probably the worst of both worlds. If you back up for a moment, you will recall there had been some significant public concern about members setting their own wages. Because of that, it was thought appropriate to give the responsibility of studying the subject to an outside group, to demonstrate objectivity, and I think we were all very pleased to see that happen.

However, now we have had three years in a row when that objectivity has been disregarded. It is rather silly to carry on this way. If I were on that commission, at this point I would be ready to toss in the towel and ask, "What is the point of my working, doing the comparisons and coming in with what I think is a reasonable and fair observation and not being listened to?"

That is why what I am looking for is some direction from the Speaker—and from others, not you alone. Because you are an important person on the Board of Internal Economy you should provide some leadership by saying, "We are not going to continue in this direction, we are going to try something different."

Maybe there is another way than the two I have mentioned. My preference is to empower the commission to set the wage. It may, in its wisdom, come back with 3.9 per cent, but at least that would have been done by an outside group and not by the government. To me, that is preferable. I feel quite comfortable in accepting what they set out and also quite confident, based on their past three reports, that the salaries would then more accurately reflect the responsibilities and time spent. That is why I asked you the question.

Mr. Treleaven: On the same topic, I agree with everything Mr. Warner said, but I have a problem in that I think he is preaching at the wrong congregation. As the nonvoting chairman of the Board of Internal Economy, the Speaker probably does not even have authority to make recommendations on this.

It may be someone else, such as one of the government members, the lead member on the Board of Internal Economy if you will, who should be here giving the rationale, rather than the Speaker, who probably has no authority in setting the indemnity rates. He can correct me if I am wrong, but I am somewhat bothered by asking the people in front of us. I think Mr. Warner is speaking to the wrong people.

Mr. Speaker: On the Board of Internal Economy, I only vote to break a tie. I never vote otherwise.

Mr. Warner: Do you have the ability to put forward recommendations or suggestions?

Mr. Speaker: There is the odd time I throw out an occasional hint, yes.

Mr. Warner: This is one of the hints you might consider.

The gentleman has returned. Do we have a figure?

Mr. Waters: Not an exact figure. A member of my staff is digging it up. We are working on this currently, as you know, so it is hard to pull it up. In essence, I expect the number to come out in the range of about \$200,000 to \$250,000.

Mr. Warner: I was right.

Mr. Waters: If I may make one comment so that members are aware of it, we cannot process that so close to Christmas using the normal processes. We have had to use a lot of staff overtime. One downside of it is that, to get it out this year, it is a manual process and the cheques will be physically mailed. We will not be able to use direct deposits. For anybody who is hoping it will be in the bank before Christmas, it will not.

Mr. Warner: The back amount or the regular cheque?

Mr. Waters: We have not touched the regular cheque. We did not want to disrupt that. This is the back amount and we will catch up with the regular amount in January.

Mr. Warner: You have triggered something. First, I appreciate the figure, and I was right that the total amount the 125 members will receive is less than what the former Clerk will receive in total by quite a bit.

To return to your comment, as far as I am concerned, the people not just in your office but indeed throughout the building, whether in the library, in Hansard or anywhere else, do 110 per cent in trying to assist the members. The effort you are putting in to get the back paychecks out is just typical of the kind of effort that members routinely receive around this building. I am always impressed by the kind of service the members get. All you have to do is pick up a phone—

Mr. Chairman: I would be impressed if they would find my desk.

Mr. Warner: Maybe they are using good judgement.

Mr. Chairman: I am afraid my cheque is in my desk.

Mr. Warner: The cheque is in the drawer of the desk.

There are three items I want to mention. I am not sure whether they are in these supplementaries. I am very pleased about three items that have occurred during the past six months, because that is when we most recently completed the estimates: the computers, the renovations to the second floor of the north wing and television.

First, on the computers, as far as I know—perhaps you can confirm this for me—every member now has the computer operation in his or her office.

Mr. Fleming: I think that is the understanding.

Mr. Treleaven: We do not have the programs.

Mr. Fleming: The wires are not all there?

Mr. Treleaven: Sure, the wires are there, but all the programs are not set up to do all they are supposed to do. Sure, they are physically there, but not fully operational.

Mr. Warner: If you have a concern, you simply check with those nice people in the basement of the north wing, because they are the ones who churn out the programs and who will

help you. I am struggling with trying to learn how to make this thing function for me, but it is great. I think they are doing a good job in my office.

The north wing was well done. I was intrigued by the price—the ticket is for at least four different items—but the north wing second floor was extremely well done, in my opinion. They did a marvellous job.

As for the TV in the office, I confess I was sceptical about how much use I would get out of it. I find I utilize it more than I thought I would. If I am not on House duty—we are all given sheets of when we are supposed to be in the House—

Mr. Treleaven: A real soap addict.

Mr. Warner: No. I go to the office and flip on channel 2 of the internal cable, and then occasionally I flip to channel 3, which is the Amethyst Room, to watch what is going on. If something in the House intrigues me, although I am not on the list to be there, then I simply bundle stuff up and away I go. I can follow the debates while I am using the telephone or writing things. It is great. I am getting excellent use out of it.

Mr. Speaker: I should not ask a question, but do you stay for the replays at 7 p.m.?

Mr. Warner: I have seen some of the replays, but just to watch your little introductions. You are challenging the existing stars.

Mr. Chairman: The closest thing we have to a movie star.

Mr. Warner: Can the Speaker tell me whether there are plans to do more, or a greater variety, of some of those little introduction things that he has been doing for the TV?

Mr. Speaker: Yes. I am sure that as time goes on there will be quite a number: for instance, what the pages do, things such as that. This is on a trial basis, and I think it is working out well.

Mr. Warner: Is it your intention to do some little vignettes on the various components of our operation, i.e., the legislative library, the computer operation, Hansard; all the various components that make up this wonderful place called Queen's Park?

Mr. Speaker: We started with the operation of the House, and the Clerk did that one from the table. I certainly hope we can do some of the other things. I consider it an educational process for the public. We would be able to do other activities around the building, particularly at Christmas, just on a trial basis. It is a nice time to try to do them.

16:30

Clerk of the House: This is just the first item, and I hope there are going to be many more utilizations of this. The television crew that did the video is extremely good at its work, so this brings to mind many areas in which it can be applied. As an example, you will all remember a local school board criticizing your attitudes in the House recently.

Mr. Warner: Not me; it was the others.

Clerk of the House: If the children who come to the assembly were able to see videos such as this, explaining what they were going to walk into, it would give them a much better perspective on the whole thing. We could even set up a room with different videos explaining different parts of the legislative process, how committees work, how the House works and so on.

Mr. Warner: I respectfully suggest that, when that is done, you consider contacting TVOntario to utilize the material you have developed. In turn, TVOntario can create some educational packages that it can then distribute to the school systems throughout Ontario. This is the kind of thing that should be available in the schools, and TVOntario has the distribution system for that. We are using our expertise here to produce some excellent vignettes on segments of our process. If that can be channelled to TVOntario, it could be utilized throughout Ontario.

Mr. Chairman: On that point, members should be aware that we are trying to schedule a year-end session with the television production people. In fact, we were going to have it today but these estimates superseded it. We have a couple of recommendations to deal with, but we would like to go through this exercise of comments on the televising of the proceedings so far and suggestions on other things they might try. They are very amenable to suggestions.

Mr. Dean: While we are at computers, so we will not have to rehash it too much, is there a fairly hard figure on the cost per office for the computers, ancillary equipment and furniture, including the new desks and all that stuff?

Mr. Speaker: I do not have a figure. Mr. Mitchinson, would you have a figure, or an approximate figure?

Mr. Mitchinson: We could very readily get you a figure on the computer work station and printer cost. If you are talking about furniture, it depends on how broadly you want to go.

Mr. Dean: I just meant the stuff that was delivered to accommodate the computer and its

ancillary equipment, not desks for me or anybody else.

Mr. Mitchinson: I look for advice from Mr. Waters. Is that figure for those components easy enough to bring together?

Mr. Waters: We can get that for you. Molly Pellecchia probably has it.

Miss Pellecchia: It is \$18,000 for the automation, furniture, printer and so on.

Mr. Dean: How does that compare with what it was estimated to be?

Miss Pellecchia: It was right on. It was all budgeted.

Mr. Dean: It was all budgeted. That is a change.

Mr. Treleaven: Still on computers, how soon do you expect the envelope and label capacity to be installed on the computers? Second, how soon are terminals going to be in the constituency offices and hooked up to the computer at Queen's Park?

Mr. Speaker: We are still studying the matter of constituency offices. I do not think we have decided anything in particular on that. As far as the envelopes are concerned, I do not know whether Miss Pellecchia or Mr. Mitchinson can answer.

Mr. Mitchinson: Yes. We had a meeting this morning with the supplier in one of our regular meetings. We talked about the envelope and paper-handling issues that are outstanding. I know they have caused members' offices an awful lot of grief. We have found that we now have 50 out of 150 paper trays and the necessary circuit boards on hand, in-house, today. The remaining 100 will be delivered during January and they will begin to be installed in members' offices on January 19.

Mr. Treleaven: How long will it take to complete the installation? You are talking about a labels and envelopes capacity?

Mr. Mitchinson: No; it is envelopes and executive paper size. The labelling capability is there now.

Mr. Treleaven: Not according to my information on my machines.

Mr. Mitchinson: That is a case of drawing it to the attention of your caucus systems administration, but the labelling capability is there. It is the envelopes and the odd-sized paper, that is what is coming; we are beginning to install those capabilities.

Mr. Treleaven: Draw what to the attention of my caucus administrators?

Mr. Mitchinson: That you do not know how to generate labels on your processor.

Mr. Treleaven: My understanding is that the capability is not there.

Mr. Mitchinson: No, that is not the case.

Mr. Treleaven: There is also the cost of machines that have broken down and cannot produce the envelopes. You can see that I am a wee bit negative in that I had higher expectations and they are being somewhat dashed. I have not had the computer that long, but my hopes are a wee bit dashed as to its capabilities and my expectations.

Mr. Warner: There is an on-off switch.

Mr. Treleaven: Thank you. Do you want to comment upon my negativity?

Mr. Mitchinson: What I will do, Mr. Treleaven, is to raise it with Peter Danyliuk—no, with your caucus friend in your caucus. I will make sure she contacts your office about the labels, and I can find out for you where you are in the schedule of implementation of the trays.

Mr. Treleaven: I am well down, because my name begins with T.

Mr. Mitchinson: It is up to your caucus where you are on that as well.

Mr. Chairman: That explains it.

Mr. Speaker: Maybe I can add a word.

Mr. Treleaven: Are you offering me your computer?

Mr. Speaker: Maybe you have been too diligent in your computer classes and you are way ahead of the equipment.

Mr. Treleaven: Somehow I doubt that.

Mr. Speaker: As for the other question Mr. Treleaven asked regarding the constituency offices, we decided in the board that we should have a consultative group to make certain we follow the right pattern and do not have too many problems in the future. That group is working, and the second phase will be to make recommendations for constituency offices, in consultation with representatives from all caucuses. I think it is a good group that is working together.

Mr. Treleaven: May I emphasize that this be done with dispatch, because for those members who are 50 or 100 miles away and beyond, it is of major concern that the constituency office people and the Queen's Park people be together on the computer and feeding in and working out of their own machine. It is not perhaps as worrisome to members who are in Toronto, but for those beyond it is quite important that the terminal get

in there as soon as possible and interconnect with the machine in the office here.

Mr. Chairman: One of the problems we face in reporting in our caucus, for example, is that as we make more use of the computers that is the only copy that is around. If the constituency offices do not get hooked into the electronic mail system and if we use that mail system more and more, they will have no real access to the process here at all. As we utilize computers more, it becomes more urgent that the constituency offices be able to talk to the Queen's Park offices.

Mr. Treleaven: Otherwise, the connections become more distant between the two offices. When it was manual they used to be closer. Now that one has a computer and the other does not, the distances between staffs and offices is increasing again.

16:40

Mr. Chairman: For example, we now do our caucus agendas on the electronic mail system. A couple of our people had a few problems because they could not access the electronic mail system. They came to me and complained that they did not get their caucus agendas. We had to explain that you now had to push buttons to get them. As we use these machines more and more, my concern is about staff training more than anything else. It is fine to have some people who are very literate in the use of computers, but the truth is that if you put a whole system in place everybody who works in the system has to have some literacy level in the use of computers or it is no good.

In our caucus that is one of the problems we have. Some of our staff people are very good; they use computers all day, every day. Others are hesitant about that. The thrust of the work is to use the computers, the electronic mail and that whole system exclusively. That excludes some people who cannot function on these machines; and that includes a lot of numbers.

Mr. Warner: What is the timetable on this little project?

Mr. Mitchinson: The consultative committee that Mr. Speaker referred to will be reporting to the board with a global strategic plan for systems development in the assembly towards the end of February. One of the major components of that plan is the extension to the constituency offices.

Mr. Warner: I am glad Mr. Treleaven raised that. I wanted to know about the computers in the riding offices.

I have another question about the riding offices. Does the Speaker think it a good

principle that a constituency office should be readily accessible to elderly persons, disabled people and injured workers?

Mr. Speaker: I think that is the ultimate goal of the board. In discussions within the board, that matter has come up on a number of occasions. First, I have to come back here for supplementary estimates for \$6 million and a lot of it is for members' support services. If we were to make it wide open and say we must have this, this and this, I have no idea how many more millions of dollars we would be back for.

As I understand it from our discussions in the board, we decided that members of the staff were even willing to assist members to find suitable locations in their own constituencies. Once we say that a member must have a storefront location, so that it contains all the things we would like it to contain, we get into very expensive properties, particularly in Toronto. The day may come when we can set out in our manual or guidelines that all these things must be available. We are doing the best we can at the moment to make certain all members can have those facilities in their offices. I do not; I have four steps up to mine.

Mr. Warner: I put before you that the board in its wisdom is taking the wrong approach towards the support of constituency offices. The idea of setting an amount for rent that would be applicable across the province is not rational to me. Within my area of Scarborough, where there are currently five ridings—and there will be six at the time of the next election—the rents vary tremendously, basically from the south end to the north end.

I happen to be caught in an area where the cheapest rent available is \$1,600 a month. You were right; some very good people attempted to assist in finding a suitable location that would fall within the budgetary limit. They, like I, were unsuccessful in so doing. I will hold out on it. I will be very candid with you. I am in a very unsuitable situation. My office is on the first floor but it is inside a travel agency. I do not have a separate entrance. My office space is 10 feet by 12 feet, for two people to work in, plus equipment, for \$500 a month. That is a rock-bottom price.

I am suggesting the board have a flexible guideline with respect to rent and what meets the needs for a particular area, since rents vary across this province, especially from rural to urban areas and even within urban areas. For example, my colleague Richard Johnston, also in Scarborough, has rent about half of mine, half what the

commercial rent is, much larger premises and his own shop.

I would like to see the board at least set as a principle that members' offices should be easily accessible to the disabled, elderly persons and injured workers. Having said that, it is fairly obvious that a second storey, where you have to go up stairs, would not be suitable for a person in a wheelchair or indeed an injured worker, who would find it difficult to manage that. I think that is a good principle. If you accept that principle, you should try to accommodate each situation as it occurs.

I am not suggesting by implication that every member should immediately have his or her rent doubled or tripled. That is not my purpose. I know full well there are members of the assembly who have riding offices that will accommodate the groups I mentioned and that are within their budgets. That is great. I cannot do that; it is just not possible in my part of the world to do that.

I am suggesting that when a case such as mine comes up the board treat it separately and be able to accommodate it. I do not mean I am somehow special among all the other members, not at all. If you take a look at the 125 ridings, you will find perhaps half a dozen where you will have to have a special adjustment so the office can accommodate the types of individuals I have described and others.

I think it is unfair to ask a staff to work in the kind of cramped quarters I have. I feel badly about having to do it. The other choice is to go to a second floor, but I do not want to compromise the principle of trying to make my office accessible to elderly people and people in wheelchairs.

That is the dilemma. I am asking the board, first, to agree with the principle I have enunciated; and second, to apply some flexibility and not just say that automatically means 125 offices are going to have to have higher rents. Rather, treat the cases as they come up. I think you will find members will respond in a responsible way. Can you do that?

Mr. Speaker: In response to your proposal, we have looked at this carefully and Mr. Waters may want to elaborate on this case. There are 125 members. Indirectly, what you are asking is that we look at every case individually. That is the way I understand what you said.

Mr. Warner: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: I do not know whether the board should accept that, to look at each case individually. Perhaps I misunderstood your

comments, but that is what you said, that we should look at it and, if necessary, if you cannot get the space for an allotted sum, we should allow moneys from other uses for the constituency office. It might be transferred; we have done a little bit of that, although I know it has not been extensive.

16:50

We have found when we have freed up funds—telephone is one and postage is another—there is no end to it. The board may be willing to look at every case individually. I agree that the ultimate could be to have all these facilities in places that are accessible to all people. I should get Mr. Waters to explain a change we made to make it flexible so that you can move funds around.

Mr. Waters: Mr. Warner, you are quite right. In your own case, and in the work we did to support you, you indicated that to acquire storefront accommodation in your constituency would cost between \$18,000 and \$28,000. That was the base range. Anything else available was on the second floor and that was not acceptable to the standards that you want.

Where we have trouble on the staff side is in determining the definition of the standards. As I understood it, some members felt that was not necessarily the standard that should be set. It was not a necessary standard. When we looked across the province and tried to pick a number, we saw variances in the cost of a constituency office within one municipality of as much as 200 per cent or 300 per cent. There was no standard available.

We gave the board a series of alternatives and the board chose a hybrid, which was basically to apply an amount that seemed to capture most members' needs; that is, \$9,500. If a member did not spend that he would not be allowed to move that into related activities, such as mail, printing or travel; that would be fixed. If a member has to go over that amount, there is an additional \$4,200 for office support costs, which a member could save on and take the difference to add to the constituency budget. In your constituency, that still would not get you to the \$18,000 floor.

Mr. Warner: I should short-change myself on other materials?

Mr. Waters: Yes. The track record so far has been fairly good. In the neighbourhood of 85 per cent to 90 per cent of members are well below the \$4,200 figure. We have only about eight members who could potentially overspend their constituency budgets this year. To determine

how much of that is because they have held back, as you have, or how much is a reflection of the adequacy of the guidelines, I am afraid I would have to defer a great deal to the support of gentlemen such as yourself. I cannot cost unless I have specific standards to cost or I create guidelines for support. At this point, the standards are not parallel to what you are asking us to fund.

Mr. Warner: I appreciate that. I do not want to prolong this too much, but there is a little challenge ahead for the good folks on the Board of Internal Economy. One of the questions that should be discussed is whether it would be appropriate to have a permanent riding office. It does not matter who holds office or which party is elected in a riding. To accommodate the principle I have outlined, if you agree that is a good principle and a laudable goal, then to reduce the costs in certain ridings—other ridings would not have that cost, but extraordinary costs occur in my riding—you might consider looking at a store front which could be shared with a social service agency or some other community group, such as a community law clinic or some other appropriate body other than a retail operation.

I am not entirely comfortable about having my office inside a travel agency. The automatic picture that is put forward is, "This guy is in the travel business; come and see him to solve your Workers' Compensation Board problem and take a trip to Tobago" or something. It is not an appropriate picture to be putting forward to the folks of Scarborough-Ellesmere, but this is the situation I am in.

I hope the board will consider seriously some imaginative solutions to this problem and discuss seriously the question of whether there should be permanent offices. I suspect that in the long run it may be a way to decrease or hold in line the rental costs. For example, I assume that if you could enter into a long-term lease, the resultant costs would be considerably less to the government than operating on a year-to-year basis.

If for no other reason, in terms of meeting the public people would know the provincial member's riding office is located at a certain place. It does not matter whether he is Liberal, Conservative or New Democrat or who the member is; that is where the office is. They will know that is where they go to have their problem attended to.

I will leave that as a challenge.

Mr. Speaker: That is a suggestion. I do not recall it having been discussed at the board that

we consider permanent offices. I have made a note on that. Your words will be kept.

Mr. Warner: Super. I have one more item. Since it has been six months now, can you tell us whether you are any closer to establishing your authority over the entire building or do we still have this bizarre situation of the Ministry of Government Services having control over portions of the building and you over other portions?

Mr. Speaker: Not being a person who tries to show his authority too often, I believe—

Mr. Dean: Once a day.

Mr. Speaker: Just wait. I will try to explain what it means.

Mr. Warner: Some understand.

Mr. Speaker: I remember the discussion we had before and I understand there have been discussions by different members of the assembly. At that time I heard the discussion was being carried on, but since that time I have not heard too much about any further developments. I have nothing new to report.

Mr. Warner: I will register my dismay. As you know, this is a long-standing problem. I do not understand what is so difficult about bringing the entire building under the authority of the Speaker. I am totally perplexed about why it should be such a complicated problem.

This building should properly be under the direction of the Speaker. Parts of it are; parts of it are not. Surely to goodness all it requires is a simple procedure. I do not know whether it requires legislation. It does? The chairman is nodding his head. Usually that means he is falling asleep during my speech, but he means yes.

The wise and sage chairman knows it is a simple bill that is required, putting the authority over the entire building and its environs over to the Speaker and wresting it away from Government Services. Where is the holdup? Why is this thing stalled? Do you know?

17:00

Mr. Speaker: I cannot answer that at all. At present, the duties of the Speaker, along with those of other people, are laid out in the Legislative Assembly Act. At the moment, an order in council states that certain sections of this building are under the authority of the Speaker. It has been that way since 1974. I do not even have control over the office I am in. It is not included in that order in council. That fact has been drawn to the attention of the proper authorities, but I have nothing further to report.

Mr. Warner: Can you tell me who has the authority to initiate the change?

Mr. Speaker: I think—and the chairman may agree—some of these changes come about after discussions by the House leaders to make certain any changes in legislation are agreed to by all parties.

Mr. Chairman: Perhaps I can help you. I am aware there have been negotiations through the fall session to prepare a fairly wide-ranging set of amendments to the Legislative Assembly Act. Part of the jurisdictional argument is in that, but it also deals with a number of other matters. I am told we should see that legislation shortly. It does not look as if we will see it before the end of this week, but we will see it in the January session.

Mr. Warner: Does the legislation include returning the building to the Speaker?

Mr. Chairman: Yes.

Mr. Warner: I will be very pleased to see that. I think the principle here, with which I hope the Speaker agrees, is that the building, in essence, is the work place of the members who are elected and that the members collectively choose someone—their Speaker—who is the person to whom they turn when they have difficulties or concerns. That is someone you look to for direction in helping solve whatever problem there is, asking for advice or whatever.

The building belongs to the members. It is entrusted to the members to serve their constituents as best they are able to do. If you follow through on principle, the building should be under the direction of the Speaker. The sooner that happens, the better. What we have had in the past was bizarre. You have seen some of the maps with lines down the middle of rooms. Part of the room belongs to the Ministry of Government Services and part to the Speaker.

It is an old problem and you are quite familiar with it. I am dismayed that it has taken this long to solve. The chairman says that, come January, we are going to see a bill. If we do not see a bill, I for one am going to be raising the question again and again. I do not think the way this has been handled is satisfactory.

Mr. Speaker: To use the phrase of a former politician who spent many years here—he used to say on many occasions, “It makes abundant good sense.”

Mr. Bossy: I have a question. In the past year or so we have seen a tremendous impact. Mr. Mancini touched on a breakdown from Mr. Waters as far as the expenses go. We have had truckloads of new furniture come into the place.

Surely truckloads of old furniture have been moved out. How do we dispose of that? What do we do with all the furniture we feel is redundant? They tell me there has been a tremendous amount of that. Whether that is right or wrong or whether it has been moved to other areas, what has been done with all the furniture that has been moved out of here?

Mr. Chairman: And where is my desk?

Mr. Bossy: It could be there.

Mr. Chairman: I think my desk is in Kingston.

Mr. Warner: It is in the hallway outside my office.

Mr. Speaker: You are talking about furniture that belongs to the Office of the Assembly.

Mr. Bossy: I had the impression when I arrived here—of course, I was proved wrong—that everything in this building belonged to the Office of the Assembly. I found out that was wrong because there must have been televisions and typewriters and everything else that did not. We renewed an awful lot. The furniture brought in for computers replaced desks and God knows what.

Mr. Speaker: You said a lot has been moved out. I do not know whether that much has been moved out because we have a lot of new people working in this building who needed desks of some sort or other. A lot of the furniture will be moving to the constituency offices because the new policy is to furnish constituency offices.

Mr. Waters: Essentially, sir, you are correct. A lot of the used furniture in the building that is still useful has gone to the constituency offices, but there is also a lot of furniture that worked its way up to the fifth floor over the years and was stored there. It was essentially junk and was cleaned out. Anything that was not reusable in an office or in a constituency office by being cleaned up or reupholstered has been sent to the Ministry of Government Services for disposal, as the assets of any government body or ministry would be disposed of.

Mr. Bossy: That gets back into general revenue.

Mr. Waters: Yes.

Mr. Bossy: You say the furniture goes to the constituency offices. Is it charged to their budgets? Can the people who take the furniture from here use their budgets for other purposes? It is better to get rid of the furniture we have on lease in our offices and then turn around and ask

for this furniture to put in our offices so we can use the money for other purposes.

Mr. Waters: There are two elements. First, during the year, one staff member was hired to take care of the furniture. That person has drawn up a series of proposals and has visited offices to try to establish a standard that the board will approve. On the basis of that standard, we will tender for buying new furniture. In the interim, we use furniture from the Ministry of Government Services where it is available and surplus, and from this building where it is available and surplus, and we basically buy enough to get by. Any furniture that is still being paid for by a member on a lease such as you mentioned is not applied to a member's expenses any more. That changed this year. It is being absorbed by the funds of the Legislative Assembly outside the member's budget. Essentially, it has the same impact on a member. You are not paying for that furniture any more.

Mr. Bossy: The furniture that is moved to the constituency office remains the property of the Legislature.

Mr. Waters: Yes.

Mr. Bossy: Come an election, if the person is defeated, the furniture is returned or is taken over by whomever might succeed him.

Mr. Waters: He would probably end up returning it until we find out where the new office will be. By the way, the same applies to furniture for which the assembly has absorbed the lease and started to pay the lease directly. That furniture also becomes the property of the assembly. One or two members have opted not to have that happen.

Mr. Bossy: I want to make a comment because of what Mr. Warner said concerning rentals. In my own case in Chatham, I have a business on the ground floor that is accessible actually to too many people, to everyone. My rent there is \$450 a month. That includes heat, air-conditioning and lighting. That is a matter of only a little more than \$5,000. To set a figure on what rents should be is very difficult because every area is different. I did not get a chance to ask Mr. Warner whether he is so concerned because that is the only place in his riding that there ever will be room for a constituency office. It should be incumbent on every member to pursue different accommodation if the accommodation is outside the boundaries of a budget. There must be openings. If you have a four-year mandate, at some place along the line some property may open up. It may take two years

before you move, but one is not married to the place where one lives right now as far as an office is concerned.

17:10

In ridings where we have these extra costs, someone should be looking for other accommodation because of the cost on behalf of the government or the member. I am wondering whether that has ever been looked into. Do we identify ridings that seem to be way out of line and then have someone look into it to see whether other accommodation could be found? It may not happen easily but there are a lot of storefronts stating, "Going Out of Business Sale."

Mr. Dean: I have two things. One is the unbudgeted by-elections that apparently are part of what the Commission on Election Finances item is for. Which are the unbudgeted by-elections or is this just a cushion?

Mr. Speaker: Cochrane North.

Mr. Waters: Dr. Elgie's was one of them.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, York East.

Mr. Dean: Those two are in this?

Mr. Waters: Yes.

Mr. Dean: I see. There is not room for another one in there?

Mr. Chairman: No, but we can make one.

Mr. Dean: I was not expecting one.

Mr. Dean: My other question is more personal than general; it is something like the loss of your desk, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: I have not asked in 15 minutes. Where is my desk?

Mr. Dean: Through our caucus representative, we have been trying to get a humidifier in the relatively dry hot-water-heated air of the Whitney Block and we have had no success. Who do I have to get to here to get on somebody's tail to get a humidifier?

Mr. Chairman: The person has to be in the room; there is nobody left in the offices.

Mr. Fleming: The answer is that we will get you one.

Mr. Dean: How soon?

Mr. Fleming: We will talk to Government Services and see what we can get.

Mr. Dean: My legislative assistant is dying on the vine from the dry air. I am not there often enough for it to hurt me much.

Mr. Bossy: We got one in ours as a result of bloody noses. About three people in that office had them.

Mr. Speaker: It may be that I am being presumptuous, but before you become repetitious, I wonder whether Molly Pellecchia can inform us where your desk is, whether it is up on the fifth floor or—

Miss Pellecchia: I am not sure Mr. Breaugh will like the answer.

Mr. Chairman: Come on up here. We want to talk to you for a bit. We are going to make a deal. I get the feeling a government is going to fall over this desk.

Interjection: You will at least know where it is.

Mr. Chairman: This was not part of the accord but it could be an addendum.

Miss Pellecchia: Your desk is not here.

Mr. Chairman: I know that much.

Miss Pellecchia: Do you want to hear the accurate story about your desk?

Mr. Dean.: This is good comedy relief.

Miss Pellecchia: I am not quite sure with whom you have been discussing your desk.

Mr. Chairman: Mostly with Lorna Prokaska. Every day I walk in and say, "Lorna, where is my desk?" She says, "Here is a note from Marcia Boyd."

Miss Pellecchia: Can you tell me why we were replacing your desk?

Mr. Chairman: I do not know why. I am beginning to think it is a foul idea, and so far you have not replaced it.

Miss Pellecchia: I will assume the reason we are replacing your desk is that the desk you currently have is not up to a member's standard desk.

Mr. Chairman: It has a lot of ring marks on the top from heavy paperwork over the years.

Miss Pellecchia: About a year ago we took an initiative to start replacing members' furniture, period, because a lot of the offices had been allowed to die over many decades. The furniture was getting pretty bad. We have been staging it. We picked a desk offered through the government's standing agreement system for executive level desks within the government guidelines.

Mr. Chairman: So it is a really nice desk, wherever it is.

Miss Pellecchia: It will be a really nice desk when it gets here; that is right. I understand your order for your desk was placed many months ago. Your desk arrived damaged. One of the reasons it arrived damaged was because we have no receiving area in this building and we receive

an awful lot of furniture that gets damaged. There is nowhere to dump furniture when it comes to the back door, the Wellesley entrance. They get them off the truck and dump them. Usually, 50 per cent of our furniture arrives here damaged. You will not believe that number, but it does. We are happy to report that early in the next year we will have a receiving area in the east courtyard that may solve this problem.

The vendor was contacted at that time and asked to come in and take a look at the damage and repair it. I understand from the buyer responsible in this case that they have been going back and forth on exactly how to repair the desk and now have concluded it is not worth repairing your desk.

Mr. Chairman: You are breaking my heart, Miss Pellecchia.

Miss Pellecchia: The supplier no longer has the agreement with the Ministry of Government Services and does not care to provide service any longer because he has lost his contract. I personally put in a call to the president today to get your desk replaced. If it is not, you will have the first of the new standard of the second series of members' desks.

Mr. Chairman: I have a better chance of being on the next moonwalk than of getting a desk. You have broken my heart.

Miss Pellecchia: I sincerely apologize. We have had 70 go fantastically, but we have had no luck with yours. I do have a deal for you. We have a nice set we can give you but it will not be the standard. I would prefer to give you the standard rather than give you an interim one since it is probably the same as you now have, more or less. It might be a little better.

Mr. Dean: We should have a formal opening when it arrives.

Mr. Chairman: I intend to put the first ringmark on this desk myself. Thank you, Miss Pellecchia.

Miss Pellecchia: You are welcome.

Mr. Chairman: I appreciate all the help I can get here.

Mr. Bossy: Was it tendered?

Miss Pellecchia: Yes, it was. The Ministry of Government Services annually sends out tenders for standing agreements for furniture throughout the entire government and we participate in that.

Mr. Bossy: When you said the supplier lost his contract and does not want to provide service, was it on the basis of tendering that he lost the contract?

Miss Pellecchia: I am assuming he had to. The Ministry of Government Services has the common commodities for all ministries, which makes some sort of sense. We are not buying furniture from a wide variety of suppliers. The tender goes out as a group and we save some money on it. There are usually annual contracts for furniture and that one had expired by the time we caught up with Mr. Braugh's problem. The order was placed within the term of the contract; the contract expired, went up for tender again and the vendor has lost that tender.

Mr. Chairman: He deserves to.

Miss Pellecchia: Yes, he does. We are very pleased.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you, Miss Pellecchia. You broke my heart but you made my day.

Mr. Mancini: I have a couple of questions. My colleague Mr. Bossy and yourself are quite concerned about furniture, in particular your desk, Mr. Chairman. Can the director of administration give us his report on what happened to the Premier's desk when he was sworn into office, opened his new office door, walked in and was ready to sit down and get to work, and there was no desk there?

Mr. Chairman: So I am not the only one who has had his desk sidetracked. I do not feel bad now.

Mr. Mancini: Can you tell us about that?

Mr. Speaker: I do not know whether that comes under the Office of the Assembly.

Mr. Fleming: Let us put it this way. A little bird contacted me and I conducted a small private investigation. I found it was in the basement of this building and had been placed there by the Ministry of Government Services. I reported this back to the bird that had contacted me. I do not know what has happened since.

Mr. Mancini: This sounds like the National Security Agency in Washington. Why is there so much secrecy about this? Can I ask you? Has someone asked that this be kept confidential? If so, please let us know and we will drop the matter. If not, I am very interested in the process of how something such as this—

Mr. Fleming: To be truthful, I think the people upstairs on the second floor west wondered where the desk had gone. I said I would try to find out because it seemed a bit funny. It was here today and gone tomorrow. Anyway, I tracked it down and reported that and I have not heard anything since. That is all I know.

Mr. Chairman: Do you do contract work?

17:20

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, do you mind if I pursue this a little?

Mr. Speaker: No. It is up to the chairman.

Mr. Chairman: It sounds interesting.

Mr. Mancini: You have had your chance. Who authorized the desk to be moved? How was the authorization given? How did you ultimately come to find it? Which departments did you work with to find it?

Mr. Fleming: Under the previous regime, all the furnishings and everything on the second floor came under the Ministry of Government Services. Being a loyal employee of the Speaker, I had no particular access to any of the furniture or anything else there. However, when the time came and they wanted to find out about this famous desk, it was felt somebody could do a little surreptitious investigating and they asked me. I talked to Roger Muller, manager of the legislative services branch of the Ministry of Government Services. Within a very short time, I got the message back that the desk was in a dark room in the basement and that it was there for safekeeping. As an entirely impartial observer of the scene, I simply relayed that message to the person who had asked me.

Mr. Mancini: Who does Roger Muller get his instructions from?

Mr. Fleming: He receives his instructions from the Ministry of Government Services.

Mr. Mancini: That is a pretty big operation. Can we narrow it down?

Mr. Fleming: He is entirely their representative. As far as the desk is concerned, I had a feeling he would know about it.

Mr. Mancini: Was he called by the deputy and told to remove the desk?

Mr. Fleming: That was the strange thing. I have no knowledge of how it got down there, who instructed that it should be taken there or anything of that sort.

Mr. Mancini: If these people want partial immunity, we can work something out.

Mr. Fleming: There is no immunity. It was nobody in the Ministry of Government Services. In fact, it was a very dedicated person upstairs who called me, so I think they were relieved to know where it was. From what I could find out, it was in the office of the former member for Brampton after he left the Office of the Premier. When he left it was moved down to the black hole for safekeeping. That is truly all I know about it.

Mr. Mancini: Is Mr. Davis's desk still there?

Mr. Fleming: No. It is my understanding that the so-called Premier's desk is the desk that went from the Premier's office to Mr. Davis's office when he ceased to be Premier. Then when he ceased to be a member it simply went down to this area in the basement where it was located.

Mr. Mancini: What did Mr. Miller use?

Mr. Fleming: I do not know what he used. I do not know at all.

Mr. Mancini: I want to make sure we know all this because when Sean Conway goes to write his book, it might deserve a paragraph or a page.

Mr. Fleming: It would make it interesting.

Mr. Mancini: Since these gentlemen and ladies have been so gracious in visiting us this afternoon and helping us while away our time, and since Mr. Speaker is here and is always so generous and co-operative, I think I will throw out a couple of things that he might be able to help the members with. Mr. Chairman, I will leave it up to you. If you think it is out of order, we will wait until the members' services subcommittee does something. Since we are all here, we might take a kick at the can.

Constituency office expenditures and costs: for example, we arrange leases and the assembly takes care of them if they are done properly. We can rent furniture and the assembly flows the money if everything is done properly. I wonder whether we could expand that to include the apartments for members who are from out of town. It seems to me it would not be any more complicated or any more of a bother for the assembly staff.

I know they do it for the apartment leases, but when we lease furniture, the telephone, etc., we have to pay the account and then submit it at the end of the month with whatever other expenditures we have. Things that are set on a month-to-month basis for a period of a year will not change, because these people demand a lease of at least a year.

For these and for telephone bills and so on, I wonder why we could not at least look at allowing out-of-town members who rent accommodations here to have a similar setup to what we have in the constituency office.

Mr. Speaker: You are asking us if you have a lease on furniture or if you have an agreement for your telephone for a year, why you cannot have—

Mr. Mancini: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: I thought it was being done. Is it not being done?

Mr. Mancini: No.

Mr. Chairman: Let me join in because this is a matter of vital public importance. I write a cheque for my phone bill and consistently forget to tell my wife how much the cheque was for. I was in a quandary for a while, but I have resolved it. When Bell Canada gave the two pieces of paper, one went to my wife and one went to the Legislative Assembly office.

Now Bell Canada, cheapo that it is, gives me only one piece of paper, so I was in a quandary for a while as to who would get to see this piece of paper. I solved it by means of a photocopier, but it strikes me that a simple technique of allowing members to use, as in the constituency office, the stamp where we acknowledge it is a reasonable amount and to forward that might be a workable system. Is that unthinkable?

Mr. Mancini: Especially for furniture, because we have to sign a year's lease. Nobody is going to give you furniture for less time than that. Everybody knows we have to meet whatever standards are set by the assembly. If they are all met and if everything is all in black and white, why involve a third process in the system when we can just go back and forth between the assembly and the individual? It would be just like in the constituency office, which works so well.

Mr. Chairman: Is it possible?

Mr. Waters: Yes, from an accounting sense it is. It may take a bit of an investment to get the process in place so we would not cause a delay. Actually, a good time can mean 10 days to process something. It does make a limited window so that we do not get a delay involved in billings.

Mr. Mancini: I bring this up because the person from whom I rent furniture is disturbed because I pay him whenever I feel like it. Sometimes several months go by and he has not received anything, and he wonders whether I am still concerned about the investment he has in the apartment. I assure him that I am.

Mr. Waters: I would like to check. I suspect we are administering your expenses according to the act as it is literally written. I expect it is a provision dealing with expenses as incurred, or something such as that, which the staff is administering. I do not think that necessarily limits it, and it would be reasonable for the Board of Internal Economy to give some direction on the interpretation and whether it is possible.

Mr. Bossy: I have a supplementary to that. I get basic cable television service. About halfway through the year somebody called me and asked

whether I wanted to expand that, so I got the sports channel. That is an extra charge, but the company billed it all as one. The bill was forwarded for payment, came through and was paid. All at once about a month or so ago, someone called up to say I owed back \$7 a month.

You talk about sending these bills in and just signing them. You would still be forced to pay, and I would be forced to write out a cheque to Rogers Cable TV for \$7. Then the assembly would write out a cheque for the other—

Mr. Mancini: Pay the assembly, just like all other expenses. At the end of the year if you are overbudgeted and the assembly has already paid all these things for you, you get a nice little slip telling you what you owe the assembly and you send a cheque in. It is as simple as that.

17:30

Mr. Bossy: I would sooner have it the other way and know where I stand.

Mr. Waters: If you want that, we would have to do some homework to make sure the administrative elements would be there to support you properly if there have to be agreements, to make sure liabilities would be covered pending an election or something of that nature. There are probably some policies and some things that would have to be reviewed. We could not implement it just like that. However, I see no reason we could not review doing that.

Mrs. Marland: Mr. Chairman, this is a question on the furnishing of constituency offices. Is that in order?

Mr. Chairman: I guess so. We have talked about everybody's desk and everything else.

Mrs. Marland: In the interests of getting my constituency equipped, I went out and bought everything we needed, and therefore, I upfronted the cost. I am receiving the appropriate depreciation, but when the announcement came through this year of what we are allowed and what each office should be equipped with, I recognized that every office will have shortfalls.

In my case, I have a particularly desperate need for storage cupboards, cabinets or shelves. Because of such a backlog of need in many members' offices, I understand it may be some time before that is forthcoming to my office. Now I almost regret having gone out and purchased all the needs for this constituency office, because there does not seem to be any recognition that I made that upfront investment in order to service my community.

Now that I need one specific item, which is the only one I would be getting from the Legislative Assembly, since I have already provided everything else, I wonder whether there is any way of getting around that difficulty. I recognize there are 125 people with different needs, but in my case it is a matter of whether I spend another \$500 or \$600 providing for a real need for storage.

Mr. Speaker: In other words, you are asking whether the list of equipment that is supplied by the Office of the Assembly includes a closet or cupboard. Is that what you are asking?

Mrs. Marland: What I am asking for is on that list, but because there are so many offices and so many offices are at a shortfall in the list of what is provided by the Legislative Assembly, I am sure our staff do not know where to begin and how to allocate fairly on what kind of priority basis.

All I am saying is that in my case, the Legislative Assembly has not provided anything for that constituency office in Mississauga South, other than for depreciation. In fairness, would there be a way for the Legislative Assembly to prioritize to the offices that have not already put a drain on the Legislative Assembly in order to set up the office and have it functioning?

Mr. Speaker: I may have to go to Miss Pellecchia about that. However, it sounds to me, from the shake of the head, that we have that equipment on our list and what you are requesting is whether you can be put on the priority list.

Mr. Chairman: Right after my desk.

Mrs. Marland: The point is that I have provided the desk and I have provided everything else.

Mr. Speaker: Let us see whether we can get an answer. Miss Pellecchia?

Mrs. Marland: Okay. Then I have another question.

Miss Pellecchia: This is a little difficult, because we have literally had more than 70 members request furniture, starting right from desks, "I do not have a desk to sit at or a chair." We have done as much as we can with the excess furniture members have talked about, coming out of the building and shipping it as fast as we possibly can across Ontario in the past number of months. There has been no clear method of trying to decide which member to do first. We have members without any furniture whatsoever in their constituency offices. I do not know how it happened.

Mr. Chairman: I sympathize.

Miss Pellecchia: We have literally had to do it on a first-come, first-served basis. We have had to take the requests as they come in. We take a look at them and fill them with whatever we have at that moment. Whatever stock is available goes out immediately. If it has to be bought—all storage cases, chairs, laterals, anything to do with that—we have absolutely no assets in the building as extra stock. They have to be procured. We have spent just over \$250,000 on new furniture for constituency offices. That takes a lot of time.

Mr. Speaker: Have you made the request?

Miss Pellecchia: Yes, she has.

Mrs. Marland: My asking you is not in any way a criticism of the response I had from the staff. I made it very clear that I recognized it was a difficult problem with the number of requests they have had. All I am asking is whether any direction is coming from you to help, if a member's office has no furniture and that member has not made any attempt to furnish the office. Then you have another member who did not sit there and say, "I do not have any furniture." In my case, I went out and bought it all.

Mr. Speaker: Have you told her about your desk?

Mr. Chairman: We are working the desk pretty well today.

Mrs. Marland: I would like storage cabinets. I recognize sincerely that it is a difficult problem. My point in asking is to try to get some support for the staff members who are trying to address the shortage.

On one other matter, which I do not think will surprise you at all—

Mr. Speaker: Just before we go to that, I am sure she has taken note of your request.

Miss Pellecchia: I have already spoken to Barbara Hogg about it. She is very backlogged, and that supply is backlogged. We will see whether we can do anything for you.

Mr. Waters: It should also be noted that the staff members we have handling this are new. The programs are new. Unfortunately, we are trying to run before we have the work behind us and all the pieces in place to make it run smoothly. There have been problems created because of that.

Mrs. Marland: No question. I understand that. Mr. Speaker, you and I have entertained a subject for some nine or 10 months now.

Mr. Treleaven: Do not tell us your personal life.

Mr. Chairman: I am just starting to wake up.

Mrs. Marland: It comes within the purview of the Legislative Assembly, and I think it is in order to ask you about it. It is my understanding that there was some consideration, as there had been in previous years—Mr. Chairman with all his experience will remember some of them.

Mr. Chairman: I cannot even get a desk; do not turn to me.

Mrs. Marland: There has been some discussion in previous years about the provision of a lapel or suit pin to designate members of the Legislative Assembly, similar to the kind of pin that is worn by members of Parliament. Earlier this year—I have forgotten when—a prototype was being discussed. I became very enthusiastic about the fact that we had got as far as having a prototype pin. I find that when you go to functions where there are federal members and provincial members, functions where people are not always readily recognizable, it is very nice for the federal members, who have these pins, to have that recognition.

There is also a security aspect. To tell the truth, they brought the pins out in Ottawa as a security identification, and I think the members of the Ontario Legislature need the same kind of security. I know it is a subject you have been looking into. I could not think of a more opportune time, seven days before Christmas, to ask you, with respect, whether I am getting my pin for Christmas.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much for your note in the House again today.

Interjection: I do not think we want to hear this.

Mr. Speaker: That was suggested in the Office of the Assembly several months ago. I looked at the original one and felt it was too bulky.

Mrs. Marland: Is that the one Ms. Phillips was wearing?

17:40

Mr. Speaker: Was that the one?

Mr. Fleming: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: Or was it the second one?

Mr. Fleming: I think it was the first example. This matter was first looked into about two and a half years ago. The previous Speaker, John Turner, and I had a great deal of correspondence with Dr. Conrad Swan of the College of Arms in England. Finally, after looking at a large number

of proposed drawings and so on, something was produced that they generally approved of over there. It was worked on further by a representative of the college who was resident in Hamilton. Then, through the good offices of Molly Pellechia, a sample badge was produced. The Speaker definitely considered it to be rather large.

Earlier today, a comment was made about this badge with respect to the fact we were getting into somewhat of an embarrassing position because we cannot go back to the College of Arms and say, "Would you like to start over again?" The answer is that the existing badge could be made smaller, and there could be one in French and one in English. It is a matter of whatever the Speaker and the members of the assembly decide. We are ready to proceed on that basis.

Mrs. Marland: I am not sure the federal one has both languages, but if it does—is there wording on the federal one?

Mr. Bossy: I wore the federal badge for four and a half years. In fact, I wore it three weeks ago at the convention. There are still some privileges. As an ex-member of the House of Commons, I can go in the members' door wearing that. I have access to the parliamentary restaurant and washrooms.

Mr. Fleming: The badge at the moment has "Legislative Assembly of Ontario" on it; if it were decided it should be in French for French members—

Mr. Bossy: All it has is the mace, and it is in silver.

Mrs. Marland: So there is no lettering on the federal one.

Mr. Bossy: The cost is \$175 each.

Mr. Fleming: Ours would be considerably less.

Mrs. Marland: I recognize we are discussing estimates, and I recognize there would be a cost to this pin. I would be willing to wager, except it is unladylike, that most members would be more than happy to purchase their own. I would not necessarily ask the taxpayers of Ontario to provide us with these pins.

Most sincerely, I suggest that if the pins become available and members wish to order them, we purchase those ourselves, as we do several other items we order with the coat of arms on them. If there were pins designating members of the assembly, we would be equally happy to purchase them. It is a matter of your providing the pin that we have the option of purchasing and

then, obviously, the option, the pleasure and the honour of wearing. It is a serious request on my part that we pursue it to a final end while we still are in this session, if at all possible. I think it is an important recognition for the members.

Mr. Speaker: I appreciate your suggestion that the members may want to pay for it. If we want it for a security item, I do not think the members should have to pay for it; I think it should be the Office of the Assembly or somebody who pays for them. I appreciate how you feel about this matter. It has been brought to my attention not only by you but also by a number of people. I think pins are fine, and numbered pins are fine, if you have a strict security system. We have had a fairly open unit here. There is the odd occasion when some new staff members come on at the door and they do not recognize the members, but generally they are pretty good at that.

I drew to your attention at one time that I did pass around a distinctive pin that was given only to members to wear. It was the badge of the Ontario branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. I looked today to see how many members had them on; I do not see any of those pins.

Basically, my original feeling was that it was another pin. It says "Legislative Assembly," but a lot of men have more than one suit and ladies have more than one dress, and I do not know whether they would use it every day. You have made the request very forcefully, and I will have another look at it, but I will not promise to do it before Christmas.

Mrs. Marland: Thank you.

Mr. Mancini: I agree with a number of things you have said. You are right; there are going to be many occasions when a person would forget to wear his or her pin. I would view the pin more as a keepsake than as a security item. Because of that, I suggest we make at least as good a pin as they have in Ottawa. I would not object to buying or paying for my pin if it were made as something that could be used as a keepsake. If we are going to make \$29 pins, then I have no interest in or need for anything such as that.

If we are going to get into something that is nicely designed, where sterling or something of that nature is used, that a person could keep after he leaves the assembly and be proud of or pass down, then I would have a great deal of interest. I would not object to paying because it would be something I would want to have. I hope you will consider those comments also.

Mr. Bossy: I am fully supportive of getting a pin identifying one as a member. It then becomes part, as it should, of the ceremony when the Clerk swears in a member. He or she would be assigned a coded pin, as is done in Ottawa, with a number on the back which is recorded. If that pin ever got lost or whatever, an unauthorized person wearing it could be challenged. The number would be identified and traced back to the records in the House to identify who owned the pin. This is the way it has been done in Ottawa.

The Clerk could add something on the value of the pin. I would like to hear his remarks based on utilization of the pin in Ottawa because he has been there a very long time.

Clerk of the House: There is nothing much that I can add that has not already been said. The

pin is used in Ottawa, and it is widely used. Some members do not wear it, but I would say 95 per cent of members wear it regularly. Then again it is a security factor; but as the Speaker said, this is a different world security-wise.

In Ottawa they wear pins. People do not just walk into the building unchallenged there. Of all the people who walk in, only those wearing the pin are not challenged. It has a purpose there, but here everybody walks in. It is used to a great extent there, and members feel it is an important keepsake for them when they leave. They do cherish them. Not too many members lose them.

Vote 3501 agreed to.

The committee adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

CONTENTS

Wednesday, December 17, 1986

Office of the Assembly program	M-43
Adjournment	M-63

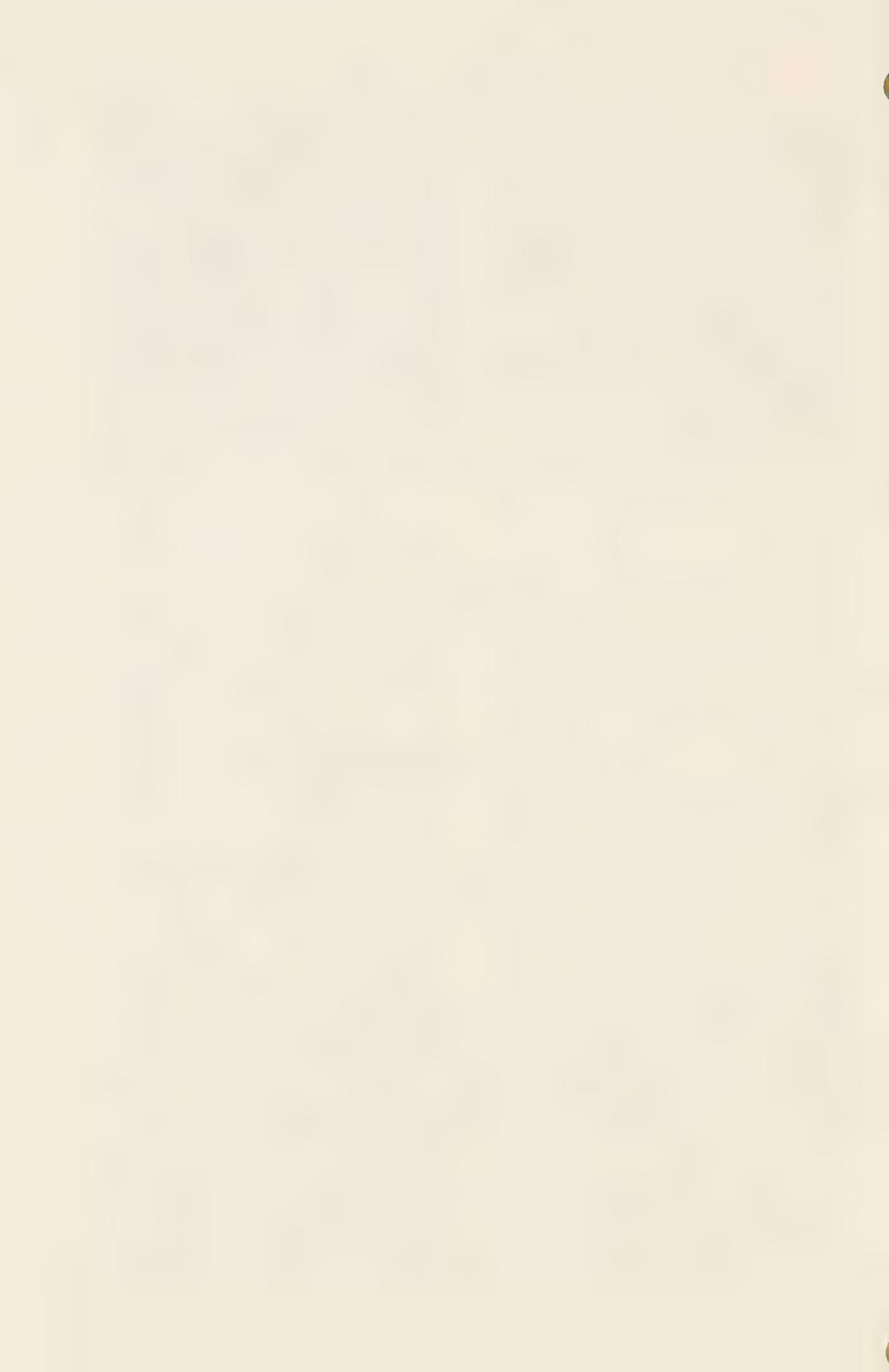
SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

Bossy, M. L. (Chatham-Kent L) Breaugh, M. J., Chairman (Oshawa NDP)
 Dean, G. H. (Wentworth PC)
 Mancini, R., Vice-Chairman (Essex South L)
 Marland, M. (Mississauga South PC)
 Treleaven, R. L., Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Oxford PC)
 Villeneuve, N. (Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry PC)
 Warner, D. W. (Scarborough-Ellesmere NDP)

Witnesses:

From the Office of the Assembly:

Edighoffer, Hon. H. A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Waters, L. E., Director of Finance, Finance Branch
 Fleming, R. J., Director of Administration
 Land, R. B., Executive Director, Legislative Library, Research and Information Services
 DesRosiers, C. L., Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
 Mitchinson, T., Director, Information Services Branch
 Pellecchia, M. E., Assistant Director, Supply and Services, Finance Branch





No. M-4

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Standing Committee on the Legislative Assembly
Supplementary Estimates, Office of the Chief Election Officer



Second Session, 33rd Parliament
Wednesday, January 21, 1987

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: C. L. DesRosiers

Published by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan

CONTENTS

Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of the speakers taking part.

Reference to a cumulative index of previous issues can be obtained by calling the Hansard Reporting Service indexing staff at (416) 965-2159.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Chairman: Breaugh, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)

Vice-Chairman: Mancini, R. (Essex South L)

Bossy, M. L. (Chatham-Kent L)

Dean, G. H. (Wentworth PC)

Martel, E. W. (Sudbury East NDP)

Morin, G. E. (Carleton East L)

Newman, B. (Windsor-Walkerville L)

Treleaven, R. L. (Oxford PC)

Turner, J. M. (Peterborough PC)

Villeneuve, N. (Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry PC)

Warner, D. W. (Scarborough-Ellesmere NDP)

Substitution

Wiseman, D. J. (Lanark PC) for Mr. Turner

Clerk: Forsyth, S.

Assistant Clerk: Decker, T.

Hansard subscription price is \$16.00 per session, from: Sessional Subscription Service, Information Services Branch, Ministry of Government Services, 5th Floor, 880 Bay Street, Toronto, M7A 1N8. Phone (416) 965-2238.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, January 21, 1987

The committee met at 3:06 p.m. in room 228.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

Mr. Chairman: We are a little early, but I do have a quorum and I would like to proceed, as we do have a rather full agenda this afternoon.

I will change the agenda slightly. I would like to deal with the matter we have before us, supplementary expenditure estimates from the chief election officer. It is in total \$22,900.

These supplementary estimates came after we had finished the actual estimates.

If it pleases the committee, I would be of a mind to take a motion to simply accept the estimates and report them without debate. If it is agreeable, we can proceed that way.

Mr. Morin moves the approval of the estimates.

Motion agreed to.

The committee considered other business at 3:10 p.m.

CONTENTS**Wednesday, January 21, 1987**

Adjournment	M-67
-------------------	------

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

Breaugh, M. J., Chairman (Oshawa NDP)



3 1761 114673601

